



Discover 2007

United Steelworkers

April/May 2007

<http://www.uswlocal2071.org>

Issue 4, Volume 1

WE ALL HAVE REASONS TO RETURN HOME SAFE



Workers Memorial Day **April 28**

Volume 10, Issue 1

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 Vice President: Ron Rettig

Secretary: Kevin Welch
 Treasurer: Billy Nelson, Jr.

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Executive Board Members:
 Bob Brumbaugh
 Clifton Baxter
 Tim Smith

Trustees:
 Jim Desgranges
 Bob Brubaker
 Terri Thompson

Guide: Rob Greer
 Guard: James Gutierrez
 Guard: Tim Thompson

Editor Jeffrey A. Fuhrer



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 (Administration):
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Secretary—Treasurer:
James D. English

Vice President
 (Human Affairs):
Fred Redmond



MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 B/D	2 A/C	3 A/C	4 B/D	5 B/D
6 B/D	7 A/C	8 A/C	9 B/D	10 B/D	11 A/C	12 A/C
13 A/C	14 B/D	15 B/D	16 A/C	17 A/C	18 B/D	19 B/D
20 B/D	21 A/C	22 A/C	23 B/D	24 B/D	25 A/C	26 A/C
27 A/C	28 B/D	29 B/D	30 A/C	31 A/C		

Holidays

May 13 - Mothers Day: May 19 - Armed Forces Day
 May 28 - Memorial Day—Cooper Holiday

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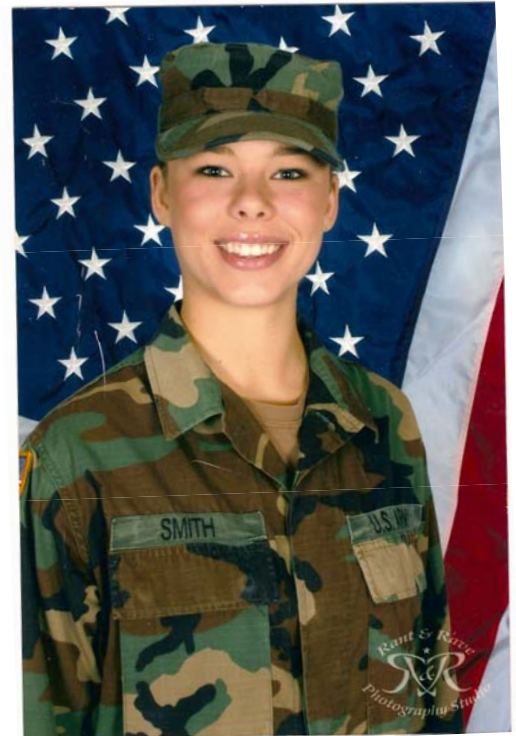


Front left to right: Ron Coldren, financial secretary, Ron Rettig, vice president Rodney Nelson, president, Kevin Welch, recording secretary, Billy Nelson, treasurer, James Gutierrez, guard, Tim Thompson, guard. Back row, left to right: Jim Desgranges, trustee, Bob Brubaker, trustee, Tim Smith, executive board member, Clifton Baxter, executive board member, Rob Greer, guide, Bob Brumbaugh, executive board member and Terri Thompson, trustee.



Tech. Sgt. Michael A. Doogs
447th AEG/ECES
APO AE 09321
Baghdad, Iraq
Nephew of Jack Hartley
Cousin of Teresa & Nick Brown

Our
Loved
Ones
In
Service



SPC Fawn Smith
571st M.P. Co.
Warhorse
APO AE 09336
Daughter of Tim & Ruth Smith

She is currently serving a 15 month tour in Baquaba, Iraq about 30 miles north of Baghdad.



Ryan Nelson, This picture was taken on August 1st. It was a promotion ceremony when he was promoted to Sergeant. He is a marine stationed in the Philippines, 2 tours of duty in Iraq

Son of Rodney & Cindy Nelson

Please
Remember
Them
In your
Thoughts
&
Prayers

Donny Blatt USW District #1 Rapid Response Coordinator

If you did not attend the April 10th and 11th Union meeting you missed out on what Donny Blatt, USW District #1 Rapid Response Coordinator talked about.

Donny says he holds USW Local 207 L up to other Local Unions as an example. In the five years he has been coordinator only 4 local out of 303 have responded 100% to all his calls and 207 L was one of the 4 local unions. Donny thanked 207L on behalf of District #1 Director, Dave McCall and his assistant Dave Coldwell.

Donny said the following issues are very important to USA Labor movements that will greatly impact on us in the future:

1. USA Trade Policy: We have all time record trade deficit, and this is hurting us in the tire industry. The USA President, Bush want more fast track where he sets trade policy instead of Congress. This was done in NAFTA and CAFTA and his giving Vietnam and China most favored trading status. We don't want this anymore and we want Congress to insert their constitutional authority on trade issues. We say No to Fast Tracks!

An other part of trade is the Sweat Shop Law, it will be illegal to import anything made in a sweatshop. A sweatshop would be any shop that did not allow free union representation or the right to vote for one.

2. Health Care Cost is directly tied to Trade Policies. We need National Health Care we are the only one of the top 42 industrial

countries without National Health Care. In the mean time Donny recommends we get involved with SPANOHIO.ORG which is trying to get Health Care for all Ohioans.

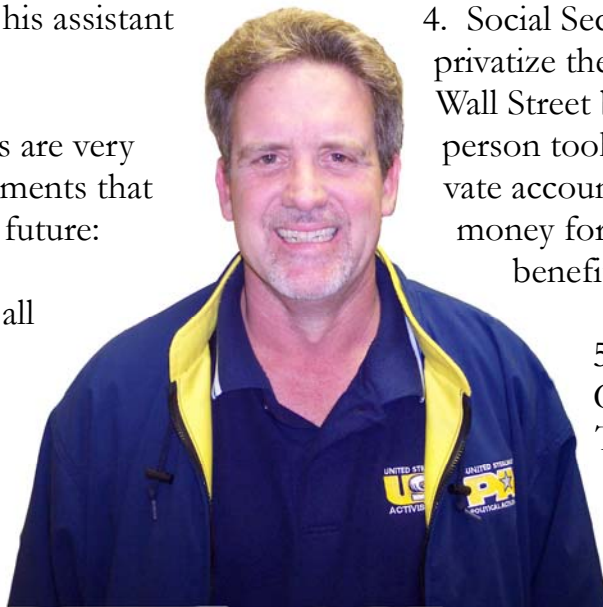
3. Retirement Security, the Pension 2006 Law did very little to protect us. This bill did away with Pension Credits where companies on good years could put extra money into the pensions. Now they no long can do this.

4. Social Security, Bush still wants to privatize the system. That will help Wall Street but not Main Street. If a person took out money for their private account then there will be no money for death benefit, survivor benefit and disability benefit.

5. Employees Free Choice Act. "HR 800" This bill is about fairness and freedom. Currently the companies can violate the labor laws on free union elections and only pay back wages and

reinstate the employee that they fired for union activities. Sometimes it takes seven years to get through the court system. With employee free choice act if a person is fired without just cause and the NLRB finds the employer guilty then they must pay back 3 X the lost wages.

Rodney thanked Donny Blatt for coming to Findlay from Columbus to speak to us for both Tuesday and Wednesday.



Workers Memorial Day

Cover Story

Each year, thousand of workers die on the job. Many more are injured or end up with illnesses caused by their work or work related. Workers Memorial Day is dedicated to these workers. This is our time to remember them.

Every year on April 28, people in many types of communities and work-places, recognize this day as the Workers Memorial Day. This day was chosen because it is the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The first Workers Memorial Day was observed in 1989. April 28th.

On this day take a moment of your time, with all of us, to remember the hard working workers throughout the world, who have died or have been injured on their job.



AFL-CIO

Union Brother's and Sister's,

First of all, I would like to thank everyone once again who helped to make our fund raiser for Habitat for Humanity a success. I appealed to our West Central Ohio Labor Council AFL-CIO affiliates for donations for this cause and we have received a good response. Donors included: USW Local 207L Findlay, USW Local Union 14742 from Van Wert, West Central Ohio Labor Council AFL-CIO from Lima, Painters and Allied Trades District Council NO.6 from Strongsville and Ohio Association of Public School Employees from Lima totaling \$860.00 combined. I would like to extend a special Thank You and acknowledgment for their generosity. I am still in contact with the Habitat for Humanity organization to see if we can fill in some vacant slots in the build schedule in September.

We are back in the candy business again for another good project in town. The Hancock Leadership Class of 2007 is raising money to build a playground at The Cube which is located at the Hancock Rec. Center. I presented the idea at the last Women of Steel meeting and we agreed to raise money to help out. The total cost of their project is \$75,000. so we can expect a nice area for our children and grandchildren to play. We need to raise \$1000.00 selling candy bars. I also presented the project at the last Hancock County AFL-CIO meeting and we will be selling glow necklaces for \$1.00 ea. at the car show on June 2. I have been assured by the chairman of their fund raising committee that we will get our names engraved on the donor board that will be located at the playground plus we will receive acknowledgment in their future advertising.

If anyone is interested in helping out with the glow necklace sales let me know. We ordered 2000 necklaces and I am sure they are going to be easy to sell.

In Solidarity,
Terri Thompson



UNITED STEELWORKERS
DISTRICT 1

BASS TOURNAMENT.

Salt Fork Lake

Saturday, June 2, 2007

and

Sunday, June 3, 2007



Trophies will be awarded to winners.
Cash prizes awarded based on number of entries.

Food and soft drinks will be provided for contestants
following the weigh-in.

Steelworkers or Retirees are eligible to enter.
Applications and Tournament Rules are available at your
Local Union.

David R. McCall, Director, District 1
Ronnie Wardrup, Sports & Recreation Committee Chair
Bob Rankin, Sports & Recreation Committee Co-Chair

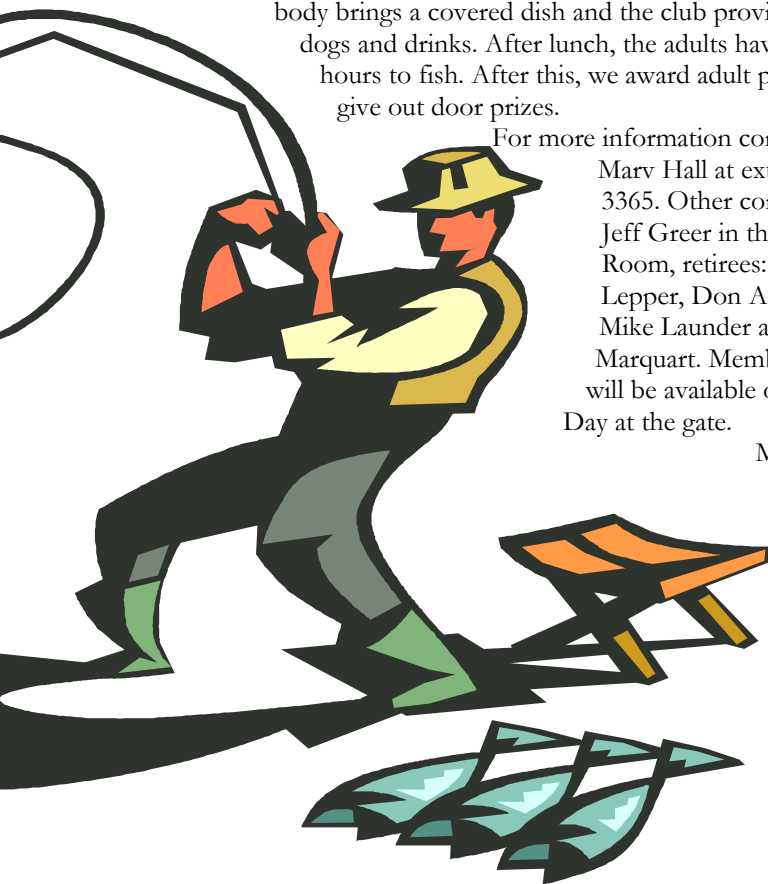
Fishing CLUB

The cost is \$30 a year for active employees and \$20 for retirees. A membership is good for the employee, spouse and children under the age of 21. The spouse has full membership privileges. Any children must be with a member or spouse to fish, per club bylaws.

There is a Family Fishing Derby and Picnic every year. This year it is on Saturday May 12 from 12 till 4. Kids get to fish for an hour and receive prizes separate from the adults. Every kid receives a goody bag from the club We then take an hour to have lunch. Everybody brings a covered dish and the club provides hot dogs and drinks. After lunch, the adults have two hours to fish. After this, we award adult prizes and give out door prizes.

For more information contact Marv Hall at ext. 3291 or 3365. Other contacts are Jeff Greer in the Tire Room, retirees: Darrol Lepper, Don August, Mike Launder and Bob Marquart. Memberships will be available on Derby Day at the gate.

Marv Hall



Organizing Committee: Nick Brown

Organizing Committee

If anyone has ever been involved in an organizing drive you know that we have the odds against us. After we file a petition for an election the company usually has 30 to 45 days to scare the employees, to apologize to the employees and to ask for 1 more chance. Then they hire a union busting attorney and pay that firm around 10,000 dollars a day just so they can have all the power.

Now maybe we will have a chance to organize with a new piece of legislation called the Employee Free Choice Act. To join a union will be just like joining a private club like the Moose, American legion and etc. Once we get the 50% of card signers the company will have to acknowledge the union and will have to bargain in good faith or there will be harsh penalties. This bill has passed one hurdle, The HOUSE by a vote of 242 to 185. H.R. 800 as it is known is the biggest labor law the house has passed in 70 years. I will keep you informed as this bill now moves to the senate.

In Solidarity Nick Brown

Dear Friends,

It has been closing in on a year since I took over as your president. No president and executive board member in our local has been challenged harder with the types of issues that go along with a company that has changed a CEO, lost money for 7 quarters in a row, a law change in the smoking rules, changes that go along with continuous operations, interpretations on contract language to conform to continuous operations, and the largest employment hiring phase in the history of our plant that is now going on. We still have more changes and challenges coming.

We are going in the right direction in resolving a few major disagreements with the company. Patience is needed because these things take time to work out.

I'm going to ask you all too please be courteous to the girls in personnel and payroll. If you have any disagreements with them let your union representatives handle the matters. We don't need anyone to vent on them when they can't make any contractual or company policy decisions anyway.

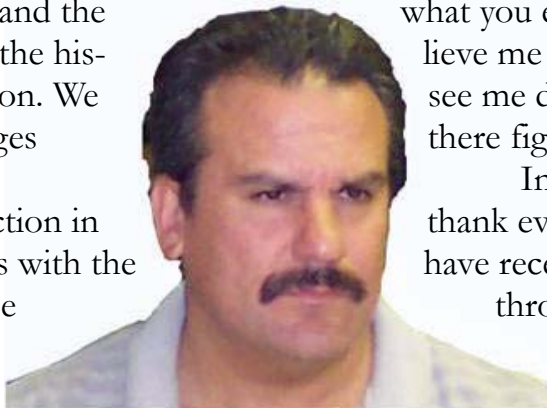
I plan to hold a stewards meeting when I get back from vacation in May. In the mean

time a steward asked me to convey the importance of obeying company rules. We really don't need anybody to get in trouble. Please use your best judgments while on Cooper Tire's time.

I would like to apologize to the back crews for not making it in very often. With 950 active employees and 600 retirees my days are busy. I will try harder to make it to the back shifts more often, I know this is what you expect of me. But believe me just because you don't see me doesn't mean I am not there fighting for what is right.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for the support I have received in the past year through these tough issues.

I also thank the ones that criticized my every decision because you are the ones that kept me thinking. Even though I felt that I got kicked around by the company here and there, I never rolled over, and I never will!



Thanks,

Rodney

Women of Steel

Women of Steel events of the month:

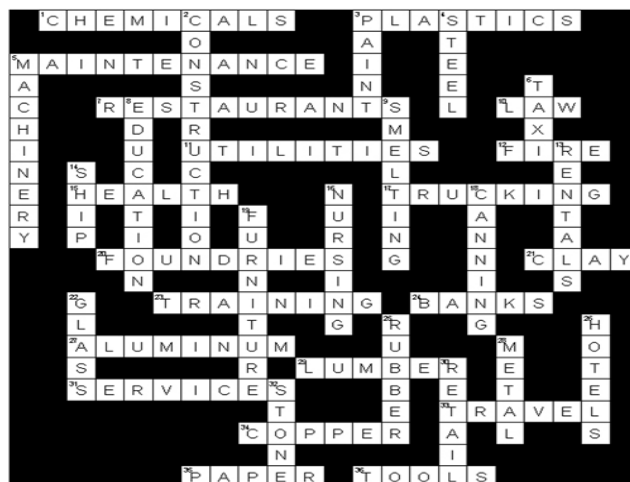
1. The completion of the WOS lotto tickets. All tickets are now handed into the district.
2. The on going candy sale for The Cube. A fund raiser ending on June 1, 2007
3. We need recipes for our cookbook.
4. The deadline for WOS Scholarship is June the 15th 2007.

Thank you for you constant support.

Respectfully

Christina DeLaRosa

Answers to last month's Crossword



Rapid Response AFL-CIO

Pres. Rod Nelson, V. Pres. Ron Rettig, Sect. Kevin Welch, Rapid Response Coordinator Rob Greer and Local 207-L Political Coordinator George Shafer met with Cameron Warner Deputy District Director for the Honorable Congressman Jim Jordan of the 4th Congressional District of Ohio.

This was an informal roundtable discussion to address the concerns of the Membership of Local 207-L their Families and Friends. We were assured by Mr. Warner that Congressman Jordan would be informed of our concerns and that he would address each and everyone of them. Keep in mind he may not have the answer we want to hear but we must have an open communication with him and his office.



The topics discussed were as follows 1.) Health Care 2.) Social Security 3.) Pensions 4.) Education 5.) Employee Free Choice Act 6.) Trade Agreements 7.) Workers Compensation 8.) Prevailing Wages 9.) CEO Compensation 10.) Line Item Veto 11.) Iraq War

Since the 2000 Presidential Election these and more issues important to Working Men and Women have been slowly eroded. The results of the 2006 Elections show that change is Wanted and Warranted by the Middle Class Working Men and Women. By having these discussions with are elected officials WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

In Solidarity

George L. Shafer
Political Coordinator 207-L
President West Central CLC
President Hancock County CLC

Former President

Recently I had the privilege to meet with retired and former president of Local 207L Brownie Vantrease. Brownie was president of our local when I hired in 26 years ago. I've been trying for a while to sit down with him and get some advice from a man that has been there and done that. I can't tell you how enjoyable my conversation with Brownie went. That man is as sharp as ever and full of knowledge. It was great to talk to someone that understands your problems. I'm sure his advice will help me out.

Brownie lives in Baxter, Tennessee. He has 2 sons that work here at Cooper. Justin is a bead filler operator and Lee is the millroom dept. manager. Rodney



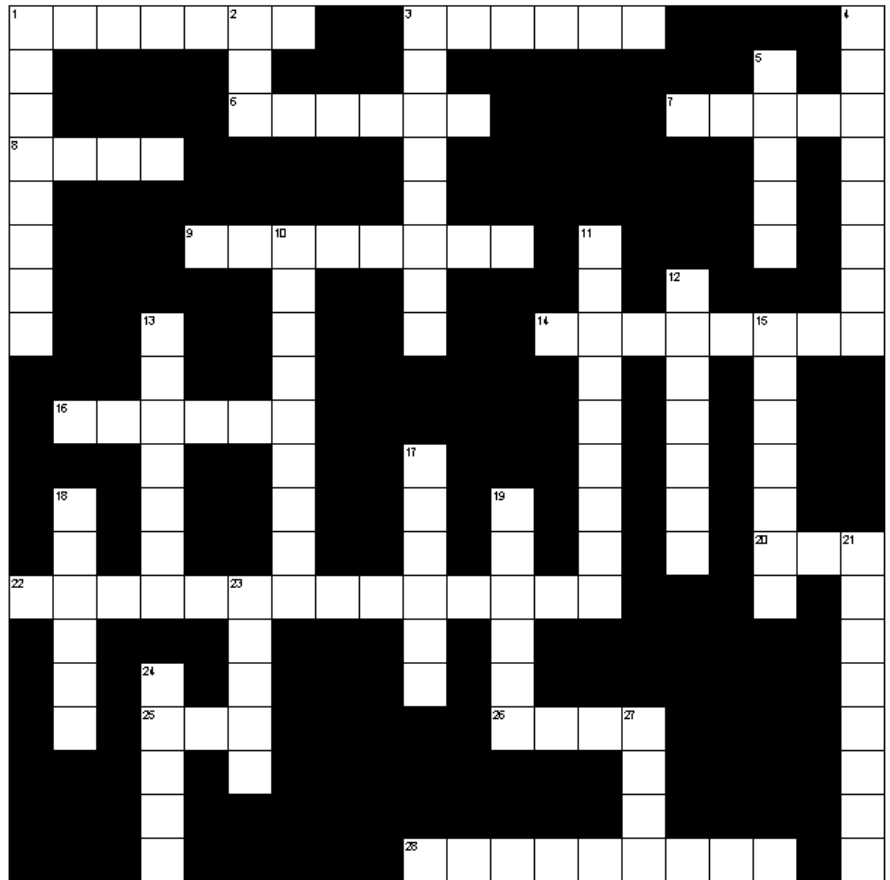
Justin Vantrease, Brownie Vantrease, Lee Vantrease

A Day For Workers

A Day For Workers

ACROSS

1. Canadian city where the first Labor Day parade was held
3. Labor Day is consider the last fling of _____
6. the first state to declare Labor Day a holiday in the US
7. belonging to a trade _____
8. to bring or come together
9. a day "devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race or nation"
14. something heard from a podium on Labor Day
16. an event held on Labor day
20. to strive toward a goal
22. the first group to celebrate Labor day in the US
25. acronym for a union labor group
26. "eight hours for work, eight hours for _____, eight hours for recreation
28. President when Labor Day was passed in the US



DOWN

1. Prime Minister of Canada when Labor Day was enacted
2. the first US Labor day was celebrated on September 5, 188__
3. in a Labor Day parade, brothers and sisters walk _____ to _____
4. on June 28 1998, _____ passed an act recognizing Labor Day
5. a privilege granted a person or group
10. aroma from these on Labor Day
11. month when Labor Day is celebrated
12. the city where the first US Labor Day was celebrated
13. this day has come to be recognized as a celebration of the _____ class
15. celebrated as a national _____ in countries all over the world
17. a hand held sign on the first Labor Day "Labor creates all _____"
18. day of the week Labor Day falls on
19. a spelling of the day from the great north
21. an organized effort to accomplish a purpose
23. in 1898 Samuel Gompers (AFL) said "workers may not only lay down their _____"
24. a group or coalition united in a common cause
27. another word for work eg.