



Discover 2007

United Steelworkers

June/July 2007

<http://www.uswlocal2071.org>

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 Vice President: Ron Rettig

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 Treasurer: Billy Nelson, Jr.

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 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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Vice President
 (Administration):
Thomas M. Conway

Secretary—Treasurer:
James D. English

Vice President
 (Human Affairs):
Fred Redmond



JULY

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

HOLIDAY

July 4th Independence Day

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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.

Rapid Response

Take Action To Stop Child Labor and Sweatshops!

Enough is enough. Global trade is out of control. Workers here and abroad are caught in a losing situation, being pitted against one another by corporations wanting to fatten bottom lines and global governments that have not acted to solve the problems. We passed laws to protect dogs and cats in the global economy, but human beings have no protections. It's time for a major overhaul of the direction we are headed, **There must be Justice In the global economy.**

Join Rapid Response to take a stand for legislation that will stop sweatshop-produced goods from entering our markets and start moving us in the right direction. We need to write Congress today and **tell our legislators to cosponsor HR 1992 and S 367**, the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act, also known as the "Anti-Sweatshop Bill,"

Questions? Check the Rapid Response Website, www.uswrr.org, or Call the Rapid Response Action Hotline at 866-203-4960.

Word Find

Union



Officers

1. Baxter
2. Bob
3. Brumbaugh
4. Buffy
5. Cliff
6. Coldren
7. Kevin
8. Nelson
9. Rettig
10. Rodney
11. Ron
12. Smith
13. Tim
14. Welch

Your Health & Well-being

Save Money on Prescription Drugs

Don't pass up this important chance to save dollars on medications that you and your covered family members take on an ongoing basis. By using My Rx Choices you could save more than \$200 a year (average savings based on more than 25,000 transactions that presented lower-cost alternatives to Medco members in June 2006). Log on to www.medco.com and find out exactly how much money you can save.

All of the information is displayed in a way that helps you and your doctors quickly find lower-cost prescriptions that are right for you. There's never been an easier way to lower your prescription costs:

1. Visit www.medco.com.
2. Log into the system using your email address and password.
3. Click on My Rx Choices (on the left side of the screen).
4. Enter the drug name you want to compare.
5. View potential savings and choose the lower-cost alternatives you would like your doctors to consider.

If you have any questions after going online, call a Medco benefit specialist toll-free at 1-800-669-4036.

Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA).

On Thursday, June 21, the Senate will vote

Call Your Senator Today

Please call your Senators NOW and ask them to vote
YES on the Employee Free Choice Act (S.1041)

Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 1-800-774-8941 and ask for the offices of your two senators.

EFCA will restore workers' freedom to collectively bargain for a better life. Explain to your senators that by voting Yes on EFCA it will:

1. strengthen penalties for companies that coerce or intimidate employees;
2. establish mediation and binding arbitration when the employer and workers cannot agree on a first contract; and
3. enable employees to form unions when a majority express their decision to join the union by signing authorization cards.

You can use the internet to contact them at these addresses:

Sherrod Brown

<http://brown.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

George Voinovich

<http://voinovich.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.ContactForm>



Senator George V. Voinovich

Circuit City Firings Prompt Workers To Call Union

RICHMOND, Va. (PAI)--A second round of mass firings by the big electronics retailer Circuit City--many of them at its Richmond, Va., headquarters--prompted some workers there to contact the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union in New York.

And while RWDSU has made no move to organize the chain, "we're reaching out" to the firm's workers, union spokeswoman Zita Allen adds.

RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum blasted the second round of firings. He said they showed the firm's managers are "poster children for corporate irresponsibility." The coming firings will cut 654 store managers nationwide and 200 workers in Richmond, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, quoting Circuit City CEO Philip Schoonhoover.

Earlier this year, the retailer fired 3,400 staffers nationwide, virtually all because they were its highest-paid workers. It told them they could reapply for their old jobs in two months, at half the pay, and in the meantime it stuck with lower-paid workers. Customers responded by abandoning Circuit City due to lack of expertise on the stores' floors. The firings led to a crash in revenues in the first quarter of 2007.

That first round of firings also prompted protests, including one in Minneapolis, where unionists emphasized that had Circuit City workers been organized--a prospect that could occur if the Employee Free Choice Act was law--they would have had protection against the arbitrary pink slips.

"Circuit City's management seems intent on leading the company into an abyss," said Appelbaum. "Management doesn't seem to understand that, at the end of the day, the only real asset it has is its employees."

Appelbaum said RWDSU is already fighting for the workers Circuit City fired earlier, even though they're non-union. The 100,000-member union's

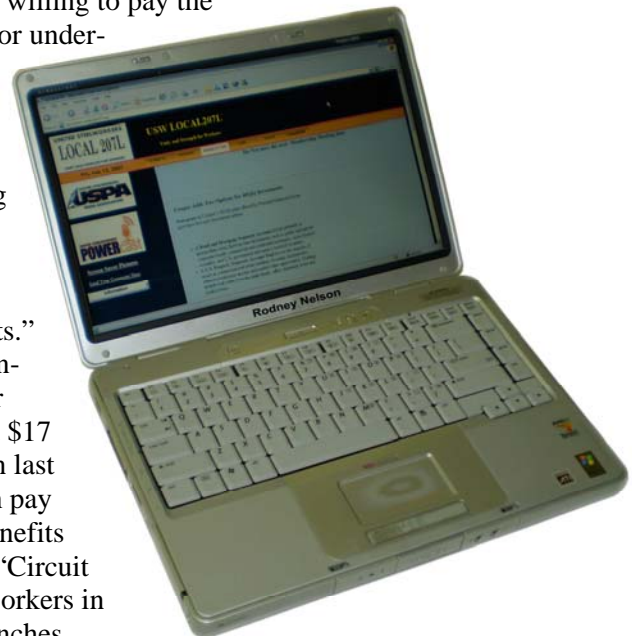
executive board voted to back a lawsuit against Circuit City filed by three California workers, and RWDSU plans additional action against the electronics retailer.

The Circuit City workers are also drawing support from other unionists. Iron Workers Local 396 President Charles Becker told the *St. Louis Labor Tribune*, he would personally boycott Circuit City "and tell my friends and family to do so." He added "Americans must care about what other workers earn and be willing to pay the price for under-

writing decent wages and benefits." Schoonhoover earned \$17 million last year in pay and benefits while "Circuit City workers in the trenches earned \$7.75-\$10 an hour" with few or no benefits, Becker added.

"Even though the employees at Circuit City are not members of our union, every retail worker has a stake in fighting what Circuit City is doing," Appelbaum said. "Big chain stores have been pushing retail workers around for too long; it's time to push back."

Press Associates, Inc. (PAI)



AFL-CIO

America's workers are struggling

By JOHN J. SWEENEY

All people want their children to do a little better than they've done. A little better education. A little more saved.

But today, too many people think that the American dream is a pipe dream. Fewer than a quarter of Americans feel the next generation will be better off, according to a new survey by Peter D. Hart Research Associates.

The vast majority of Americans are struggling to maintain their living standards in the face of stagnating wages, vanishing retirement security, eroding health care coverage and mounting debt. America's working families are being left behind in an economy designed to benefit Wall Street, not Main Street.

The rosy picture of the economy drawn by the Bush administration simply isn't reality for working families. Americans are working harder than ever, yet they're not keeping up with rising costs. Between 1980 and 2005, productivity in the U.S. economy rose 71% while the real compensation of workers rose just 4%. Meanwhile, those at the top of the economic heap are making money hand over fist. The average CEO now makes 411 times that of the average worker.

Something is wrong with the system.

One of the primary reasons America's workers are struggling is they've lost their ability to bargain with their employer for better wages and benefits through unions. Unions are a cornerstone to building and keeping a strong middle class in our nation.

Union workers earn on average 30% more than workers who don't have a union, according to government statistics, and they are much more likely to have health care coverage and pensions.

The single best anti-poverty device in our nation is a union card. In fact, more than half of people who don't already have a union say they would join one tomorrow if given the chance, but too few people get that chance. Employers routinely harass, intimidate and even illegally fire workers who try to form unions.

Congress must work quickly to level the playing field for working people by passing the Employee Free Choice Act, which would restore workers' freedom to choose to join a union and bargain for a better life.

Congress also must stop the seemingly endless flow of good jobs out of this country. We've lost more than 3 million American manufacturing jobs since 2001, partially as a result of misguided exchange rate policies, unbalanced trade policies and corporate strategies to aggressively move manufacturing operations offshore. In the past five years alone, Wisconsin lost 87,600 manufacturing jobs.

Last week's announcement that the U.S. trade deficit hit \$764 billion in 2006, up 6.5% since last year's record, is further evidence that our nation's trade policies are broken and badly in need of an overhaul.

Princeton economist Alan Blinder warns that as many as 42 million service-sector jobs are vulnerable to being moved offshore. This isn't a blip in our path to economic freedom; it's a long-term trend that must be reversed with sound policy.

Congress should start us on the road to recovery by derailing President Bush's plan to extend trade promotion authority, or "fast track," which allows the president to force an up-or-down vote on bad trade deals without proper consultation from Congress. Extending "fast track" authority would hamstring Congress' ability to fix our broken trade policy at a time when working families are in dire need of a correction in course. We also must reject any trade agreement that does not provide adequate workers' rights and environmental protections. Finally, our nation's middle class cannot be strengthened without a plan to provide every American with affordable, quality health care and a secure retirement.

At the richest moment in our nation's history, the American dream is fading fast for a majority of American workers. The only way to get America back on track is through a commitment to real, lasting reform in our trade and economic policies.

In November, working families voted for a change in direction. It's time our nation's leadership delivers.

John J. Sweeney is president of the 10 million-member AFL-CIO.





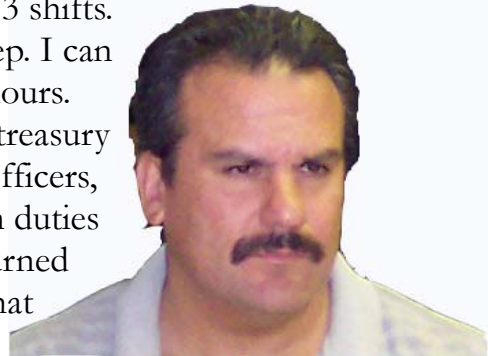
Kevin Welch

Medical Q & A

Questions	Answers
A person called and asked about prescription drugs. They said they get diabetic serum and it is always refrigerated. Can Medco fill an order that needs to be refrigerated?	I called Medco at 1 800 922 1557 . You have to give them the ID number on your Medco card. Finally, I got Debbie at Medco, she said we ship temperature sensitive drugs all the time they are gel packed and shipped 2 day express. Always call and ask Medco and if you don't agree with them then call us at the Union Hall 419.422.4224 or 3207 from the plant's phones.
How do I find out if my doctor is in our network?	Get your Health Design Plus card out and look on the card it has two numbers to verify a Network provider 1 419 427 0090 or 1 800 455 4460. Give them a call and if there are any problems then give us a call at the Union Hall.

Dear Friends,

There have been a lot of questions concerning the lost time of our officers. I would like to answer that question this way. Since we went to continuous operations there just doesn't seem to be a perfect system to schedule lost time. Our officers are keeping busy, you just don't see them like you did when we had 3 shifts. They are not hiding, its just the hours and crews we keep. I can tell you this though, we are above 2100 banked union hours. That is 1100 more hours than when I took office. The treasury is up higher than it ever has been. I have also had our officers, committee people and stewards involved more in union duties and activities than we have known for a while. I have turned down opportunities for myself to educate the people that help in the decision making process. If there are any questions concerning lost time of officers, committee people, or stewards please contact me. I work for the membership and I will be accountable for my actions.



We just got back from Texarkana and sat in on their arbitrations. We plan to improve on our relationship with their local because many of their issues are our issues. Their officers are a great bunch of guys and made us feel right at home.

There are changes in management going on and I'm asking the membership for

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support and patience until these changes come about. Anytime there is change it causes a little anxiety and I'm getting my fill. I hope we can build a better relationship with the company.

Shutdown is coming soon. Please protect your holiday pay by finishing your duties before you go home. Every shutdown we have issues because workers don't finish all their duties before they leave early. If you get an opportunity to leave early, make sure your work is done and you are excused by management.

I wish our Human Resource Manager, Mike Delaney, the very best in retirement. Not every day was an enjoyable experience working with Mike but I felt comfortable working with him. I always felt given enough time Mike would always give into a reasonable request. We just ran out of time. Yea, I'll miss the bastard!!!!!!!!!!

Rodney

www.uswlocal2071.org



Check it out!