

Discover 2007

United Steelworkers

Sept/Oct 2008

<http://www.uswlocal2071.org>

Issue 1, Volume 18,



Ohio AFL-CIO 26th Biennial Convention

Volume 18, Issue 1
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 (Human Affairs)
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OCTOBER

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

Cover Photo provided by Shane Hanley.
 Left to right: George Shafer, Shane Hanley, Leo Gerard USW International President, Terri Thompson, Joe Vandenynde and Tim Courted.



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.

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Contract Solidarity Rally



1130 Summit Street, Findlay, Ohio 45840

For union members and their family.

Food and entertainment provided.

Entertainment by Razn Kayn

September 27th from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

&

October 4th from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

In case of rain, everything will be moved inside the union hall.

What is important to you?



“Health care is an overriding issue for me. We as a nation, my company and my family can not afford high deductibles and co-pays. We are the only nation in of 42 industrial nations that does not have national health care.”

**Kevin Welch
Local 207L
Cooper Tire & Rubber**

Barack Obama’s Plan:

- Put the American worker first. Make sure that trade agreements include protections for our workers, and for the environment.
- “Provide immediate TAX RELIEF for 95% of working families. \$1,000/family or \$500/individual. The only people that will pay more in taxes are those that make more than \$250,000/year.
- “Make sure the Government is spending OUR tax dollars on products that are made in America. Stand UP for ‘Buy American Legislation’.

John McCain’s Plan:

- Make the Bush Tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans PERMANENT, while providing no relief for workers.
- “Make working families PAY TAXES for Employer-sponsored Healthcare. Make no promise for improving accessibility or lowering Premiums.
- “Continue the mistakes of the past. Carry on the Bush-Legacy of Free Trade and jobs going overseas. John McCain has voted lock-step with the Bush Administration, and helped authorize 138 Free Trade Agreements over the last 8 years.
- ““Buy American” legislation, that requires the federal government buy American made products is “disgraceful.” (www.politifact.com)

OH LABOR 2008 PRE-GOTV RALLY

NW OHIO RALLY
October 2
6pm - 8pm @ UAW 1219 Hall,
Lima
1440 Bellefontaine Ave.
Lima, OH 45801



SPECIAL SURROGATE
SPEAKERS TBA
Contact: Bev Spetz
(419) 309-5913
bevorjer@yahoo.com

Voting AFL-CIO

This year's historic election may come down to two major factors: how many people turn out to the polls, and how many of their votes are counted.

Voter turnout increased more than 120 percent during the presidential primaries, and few if any of the pundits predicted it. Over 3.4 million people in Ohio turned out to the polls to make their voices heard. Millions of young people and people of color have been especially energized by the candidates and are registering to vote for the first time.

Yet the primaries also spotlighted questions about whether our country is ready for November 4. There were numerous reports of polling place problems, voting machine malfunctions and complaints of voter registration glitches. Lines were long, voters were not on the rolls, and too many would-be voters simply gave up.

Polls in parts of Ohio, California, and the District of Columbia ran out of paper ballots, in some place as early as noon, according to a Pew Center on the States study. And the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law reported that its nationwide voter protection hotline received over 5,000 complaints during the primaries.

In the 2006 general election, the hotline received 2,334 calls from Ohio, more than any other states. There were reports of vote switching (where they voted for one candidate and another candidate's name appeared on the confirmation screen), including a voter at a senior center in Franklin County who received two error messages and had the screen flip his vote. A poll worker was uncooperative when he asked for assistance, and finally told him that the

machine was broken and they would call him when it was fixed. He never got a call and therefore never voted. It was almost like a repeat of the 2000 and 2004 elections, when horror stories of long lines, inaccessible and understaffed voting places, poorly designed ballots, ill functioning voting machines, and voter intimidation and manipulation in low-income, Latino, and African American communities were widespread.



We cannot allow these voting rights problems to occur again in November 2008 – there's simply too much at stake. This year, every eligible voter in Ohio must be able to cast a ballot, and have that ballot counted.

A truly historic election day is going to come down to individual voters who must be active proponents of their own right to vote.

That's why AFL-CIO union activists and constituency groups have joined a nonpartisan coalition of civil rights organizations, faith-based organizations, students, lawyers, and other community allies in Ohio to tackle voting problems in our community and reach out to citizens about their voting rights.

Here are **six simple steps** that everyone in Ohio can take to make sure their ballot counts:

First, call your local elections office before Election Day to verify the location of your polling place.

Second, bring some form of identification to the polls, preferably a government-issued photo ID or your drivers license.

Third, ask for help from poll workers and check posted information signs if you have questions or need assistance at the polls.

Fourth, if you are in line at the polling place when the polls close, do not leave. You're still entitled to vote.

Fifth, if you are offered a provisional ballot, ask if you can cast a regular ballot instead by providing additional ID or by going to another polling place. If there are no other options, cast the provisional ballot.

Sixth, if you have a voting rights problem, ask to speak to an election official or to a voting rights volunteer, or call the toll-free voting rights hotline 1-866-OUR-VOTE, operated by a nonpartisan coalition of groups, including the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and the AFL-CIO.

This November's election will mark the moment that America begins to build a future for all, or one in which we finally give up on the American Dream. Every Ohioan ought to stand up and weigh in on the direction our country should be headed. Voting is our most precious right and responsibility as Americans, and this year, we must make sure our votes will count.

Richard Trumka is Secretary Treasurer of the 10 million member American Federation of Labor – Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Voter Eligibility

Q: Does everyone who wants to vote in Ohio have to be registered to vote here?

A: YES!



Q: What are the qualifications to register and to vote in Ohio?

A: You are qualified to register to vote in Ohio if you meet all the following requirements:

You are a citizen of the United States;

You will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the general election. (If you will be 18 on or before November 4, you may vote in the primary election for candidates, but you cannot vote on issues until you are 18);

You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which you want to vote;

You are not incarcerated (in prison or jail) for a felony conviction under the laws of this state, another state or the United States;

You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court; and

You have not been permanently disenfranchised for violations of the election laws. You are eligible to vote in elections held in your voting precinct more than 30 consecutive days after you are duly registered to vote in this state.

Q: Where do I vote?

A: Ohio election officials determine a persons qualifying voting address using guidelines established by Ohio law (Revised Code (R.C.) 3503.02). Where an individual votes depends on where he or she is determined by law to reside. A voter may vote from only one residence. Your voting residence is the place in which your habitation is fixed and to which, whenever you are absent, you intend to return. Your voting residence should be one you consider to be permanent, not temporary. You will not lose your voting residency in Ohio if you leave temporarily and intend to return, unless you are absent from the state for four consecutive years. (Exception: You will not lose your residency after four years if your absence from Ohio is due to your employment with Ohio or the United States government, including military service, unless you vote in, or permanently move to, another state.)

If you do not have a fixed place of habitation, but you are a consistent or regular inhabitant of a shelter or other location to which you intend to return, you may use that shelter or other location as your residence for purposes of registering to vote.

Check our web site for more information on voting.

Union Members

Phone Numbers

We were not able to contact some of our union members because of bad phone numbers. Some of us have dropped our land line phones and went to cell phones. In these times of negotiations it is important to make sure we have the right communication with our members. So, if you have changed your phone number or address, please make sure you stop in or call the union hall and let us know.



Employee Assistance Program

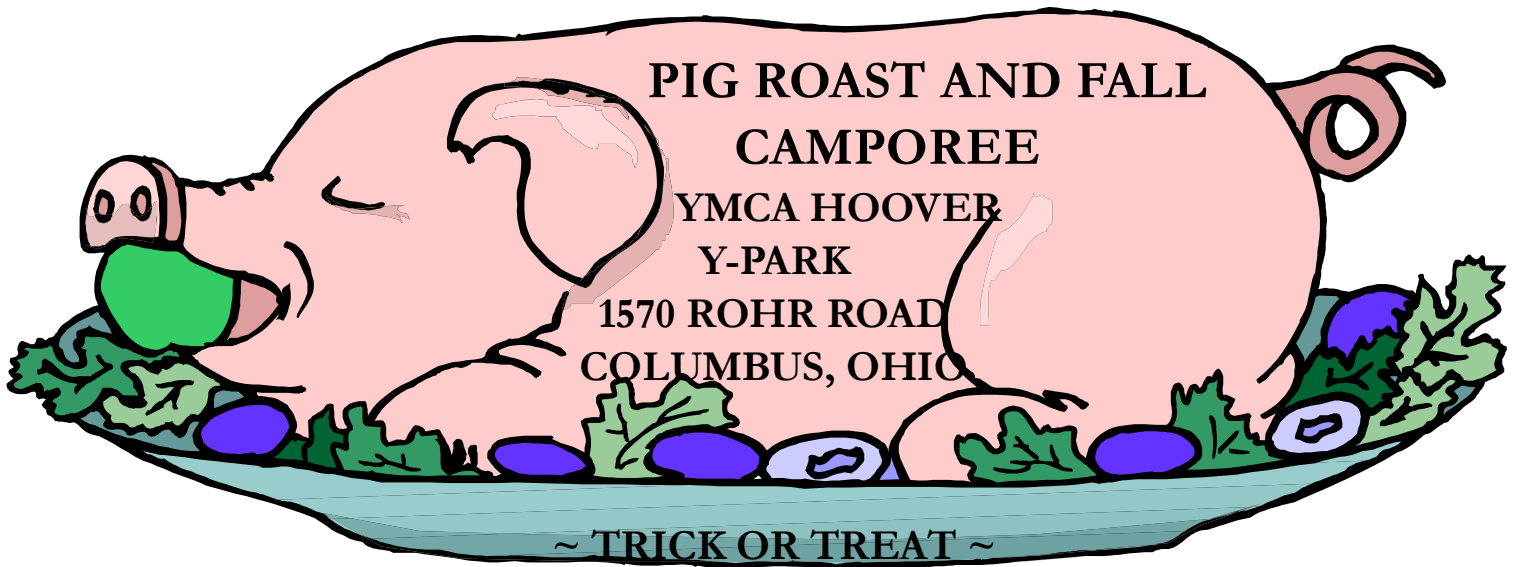
We urge you or your family who need help or assistance in dealing with personal problems to contact the Employee Assistance Committee. The committee members are available 24/7. All calls will be in the strictest of confidence.

Call for Help

	Darrol Lepper
	423-7156
	Tim Pauley
	981-5185
	Butch Woods
	365-5838
	Jack Williams
	422-7013
Don Bash	
365-5748	
Terri Dee	
421-0414	

Pick up a pamphlet at the plant entrance or down load one from our web site.

United Steelworkers District 1



BONFIRE ~ HAYRIDES ~ ENTERTAINMENT ~ PRIZES ~ FOOD

ALL WEEK-END EVENT

PIG ROAST DINNER

Saturday, October 4th, 2008

5:00 p.m. until Midnight

CAMPING

Friday, October 3rd, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

Through

Sunday, October 5th, 2008 -11:00 a.m.

Sites available with Electrical Hookups



Games – Prizes – Planned Activities

Tickets May Be Ordered From Your




Local Union

Who Will Support Our Right to Strike?

John McCain:

-  Favors the employer's destructive right to permanently replace strikers.
-  Opposes legislation to make it easier for workers to form unions. (Employee Free Choice Act)

Barack Obama:

-  Supports workers' rights to organize, bargain and strike.
-  Supports amending federal labor law to prohibit employers from permanently replacing striking workers.
-  Will urge Congress to declare permanently replacing striking workers to be an unfair labor practice.

Imagine your local union's next contract negotiations under new rules. The company brings its last best and final offer to the table – the local union membership does not agree that the package is good enough, takes a strike vote, gives notice, and you exercise your right to strike **KNOWING THAT WHEN THE STRIKE IS OVER YOU WILL HAVE YOUR JOB BACK.**

Contrast that to today's law. Unless they strike over unfair labor practices, union members striking over economic issues can be permanently replaced. That means that workers brought in to do your job while you are on strike can keep your job, even if the union members vote to return to work. The law only requires you to be recalled when the replacements decide to leave or if there are more job openings.

Members of the NLRB determine whether or not your strike is a ULP strike, and they are appointed by the President. That's why it's critically important to have a pro-union President in the White House.

The quality of your union contract – your wages, benefits and working conditions – depends on the kind of economic pressure you can put on your employer during negotiations.

Do union members want strikes? Absolutely Not!

But if necessary, we need to be able to strike without worry of losing our jobs. And even under the improved law supported by Barack Obama, the company still retains its right to hire temporary replacements, but no more permanent replacements. That's a fair balance.

The Right to Strike without the threat of permanent replacement workers is an Issue in EVERY contract negotiation!

Vote Union, Vote for Better Contracts, Vote Obama

Issue comparison

Below are three issues, Trade Agreements, Healthcare and Social Security. They are separated in categories by A, B, C, D, E and F. Choose the statement you agree with. On page 12 you can see if you agreed with Sen. McCain or Sen. Obama.

A.

Trade agreements

- Supports NAFTA - says it has had a net positive impact on the U.S. economy
 - Supports GATT and the WTO
 - Opposes labor and environmental standards in trade Agreements
 - Would negotiate a trade agreement with any Country willing to negotiate
-

B.

- Wants to fix NAFTA so that it works for American workers
- Will insist on enforceable labor and environmental standards in all future trade agreements
- Will pressure the WTO to enforce all existing trade Agreements
- Wants to stop Governments from continuing unfair subsidies in trade agreements
- Wants to expand the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program

Healthcare

C.

- Wants to make the recipient of Health Insurance more responsible for the costs
 - Wants to provide tax credits of \$2,500.00 per individual and \$5,000.00 per family to purchase your own Health Insurance.
 - Promotes Health Savings Accounts
 - Wants to add the cost of an Employers Health Insurance plan to the workers taxable income and provide a sliding fee schedule for those who can't afford Healthcare
-

D.

- Wants to make available a new National Healthcare plan for all Americans
- Wants to make affordable Healthcare the same that is offered to members of Congress
- Promotes no American will be turned away from Healthcare coverage due to illness or pre-existing conditions
- Wants to make Healthcare coverage portable so it can move from job to job without jeopardizing coverage
- Wants to require all children have Healthcare coverage and require that children can stay on there parents Insurance to at least 25 years of age



Issue comparison

E.

Social Security

- Strongly opposes privatizing Social security
- Proposes lifting the cap for Social Security taxes that is currently at \$97,500.00
- Opposes cuts in Social Security benefits
- Opposes raising the age eligibility limit for Social Security benefits

F.

- Supports supplementing the current Social Security system with personal accounts
- Opposes lifting the cap for Social Security taxes that is currently at \$97,500.00
- Wants to make it easier for retired Americans to return to the workforce by eliminating the Social Security earnings test.

Ohio AFL-CIO 26th Biennial Convention

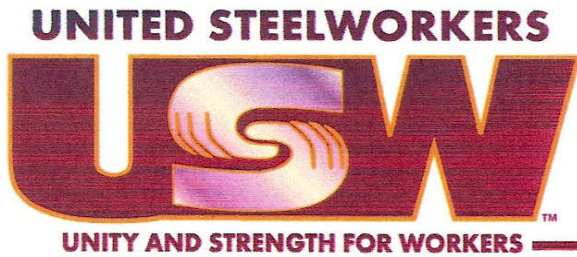
Brother's and Sister's,

We had the honor to attend the Ohio AFL-CIO 26th Biennial Convention which was also the 50th anniversary of the merger between the AFL and the CIO. The Convention kicked off with the Mayor of Cleveland, Frank Jackson presenting us with a proclamation from the city. We had several motivational speakers including Ted Strickland, Governor of Ohio, Rich Trumka, National Secretary/Treasurer for the AFL-CIO, Leo Gerard, our International President and several Democratic Leaders. Mr. Strickland told us to "FIGHT ON" to win the state of Ohio and turn it back to blue. Mr. Trumka also stressed that the election is all about giving our kids and grand kids a future. We need all your help and support in the up-coming weeks to help save the future of our jobs and health care. You can go to oh.barackobama.com for more information.

In Solidarity,
Terri Thompson
Shane Hanley,
Joe Vandenynde,
Tim Courted
George Shafer,



Left to right: Beverly Spetz-Zone Coordinator Labor 2008 AFL-CIO, George Shafer, Shane Hanley, Leo Gerard USW International President, Terri Thompson, Joe Vandenynde and Tim Courted.



District 1, Sub-District 4

September 26, 2008

David McCall – Director
Pat Gallagher, Sub-District Director
Staff Representatives

Jay Jeffries
Chris Martinez
John Rigling
Rick Vermillion

To: Presidents, Recording Secretaries, and Unit Chairs

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Please let this letter serve notice that from October 1, 2008 through Election Day Tuesday, November 4th, I will be concentrating all my efforts towards the most important election since the Great Depression.

It's all about your jobs, your families, and your way of life, as you once knew it eight (8) years ago. Are you willing to take another four (4) years of the same "bull" from the Washington, D.C. Look around you. Your countrymen, your union brothers and sisters have suffered from unprecedented Foreclosures, Bankruptcy, Cost increases in Fuel, Medical Insurance, Food and the essentials of everyday life. Ohio presently has a 6.3% unemployment rate, I'm asking you, where did the jobs go?

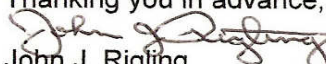
In Ohio alone we have lost 182,000 manufacturing jobs in the last eight (8) years. "Enough is enough" we need a "Change in Washington," and we need it now.

We all must do our part in electing a person and an administration in the White House that is going to fight to keep your job, not only here in Ohio, but throughout the United States. Your UNION, the United Steelworkers has had 93 plants shutdown since 2000 and this has accounted for over 21,000 jobs being lost just in Ohio, District 1.

You could help prevent others from losing their jobs, families, homes and their way of life, by supporting and electing Barack Obama as President.

We need to let our members know who is going to stand up for the middle-class working families. Who is going to fight for fair trade laws, fiscal responsibility to the workers – not to the rich and famous on Wall Street? Who is going to fight for fair tax policies for the working person, and provide a health care system that is for everyone – not a health care system that allows you to be taxed on your health insurance benefits?

I can't afford four (4) more years of the same, can you?

Thanking you in advance,

John J. Rigling
Staff Representative
United Steelworkers



Cc: David McCall, District Director

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

1440 South Byrne Road – Toledo, OH 43614 • 419-385-6687 • 419-385-8839 (Fax) • www.usw.org

UNION LABEL 3857



Veteran's Day

Are you a Veteran in the Findlay Plant?

A reception for all Veterans will be held on Tues. Nov. 11th & Wed. Nov. 12th in the East & West E. I. Conf. rooms from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please stop in before or after your shift for refreshments and prizes.

Please fill out this form and give it to your supervisor by October 22nd.

Your name will be entered into a raffle to win an American Flag that was flown over the Capitol building in Washington D.C., among other prizes to be drawn on November 13th.

Name: _____ Clock # _____ Dept. # _____

Branch of service _____ ---

Military Status & years of service _____

I prefer not to have my name published in a Cooper Tire communication.

I give permission to have my name published in a Cooper communication.

We'd like to hear from you!

Reminder: If you have a favorable memory or a special photo that you would like to share about your military service, we would like to print your story in our November issue. If interested please give your information to your supervisor no later than Wednesday October 22nd or contact Mary Boguski at ext. 4122.

Issue Comparison Answers

Issues	Sen. McCain	Sen. Obama
<u>Trade agreements</u>	A.	B.
<u>Healthcare</u>	C.	D.
<u>Social Security</u>	F.	E.