

Discover 2007

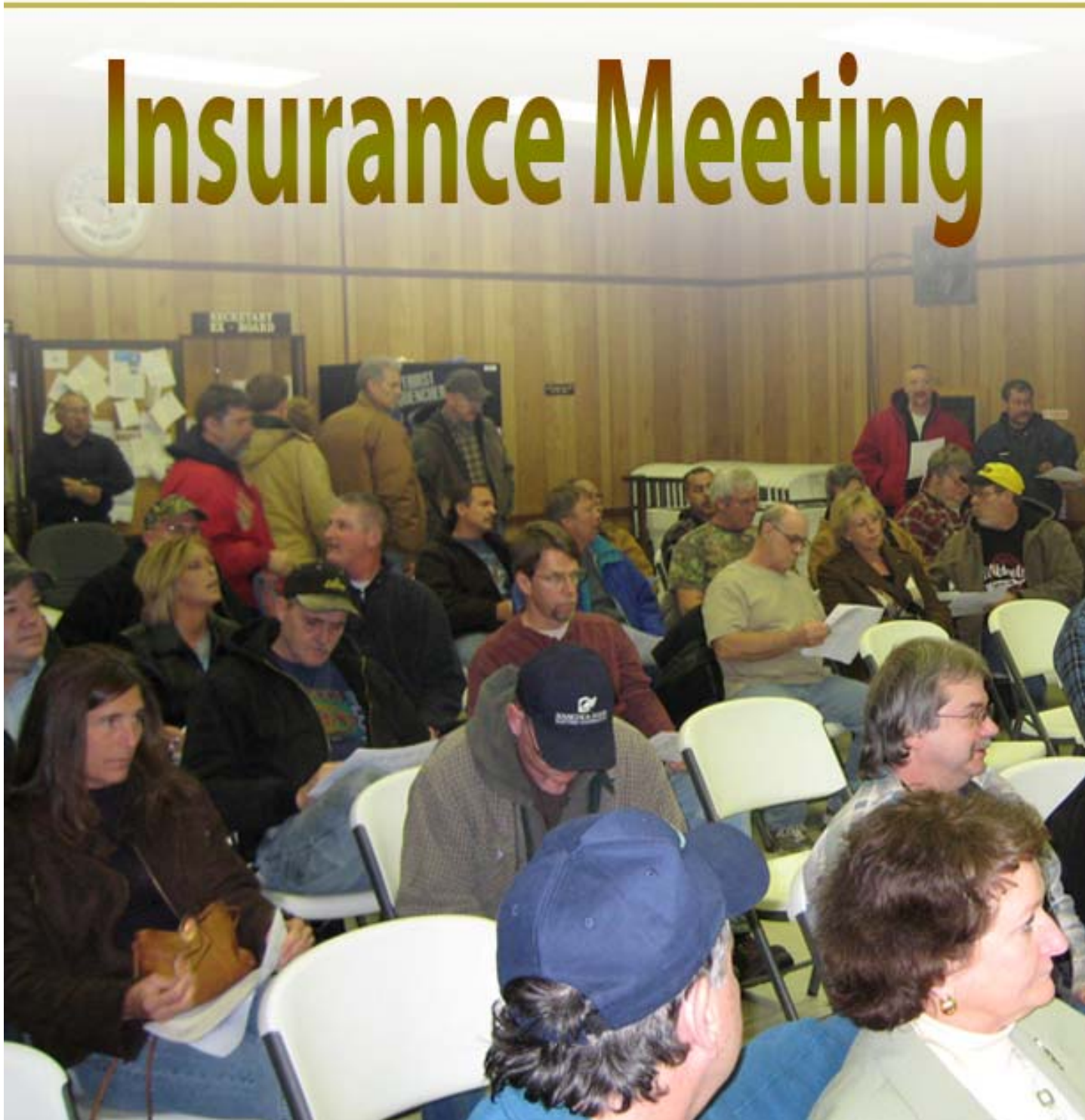
United Steelworkers

Jan/Feb 2009

<http://www.uswlocal2071.org>

Issue 1, Volume 20,

Insurance Meeting





Important Information Regarding Your 2009 Health and Dental Benefits

Please use the following information to better utilize your health plan for the year. Keep these telephone numbers and addresses in a convenient location for your and your doctors, use.

Important Numbers for YOU

Dental:

Call Customer Service at:
1-877-286-3559

Medical:

Call Customer Service at:
1-877-286-3559

Pre-certification:

Call HDP at
1-877-286-3560

Dependent Care Spending Account:

Submit all claims to:
Health Design Plus
1755 Georgetown Rd
Hudson, OH 44236
Attention: Flex

Health Care Spending Account:

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Attention: Flex

Call Customer Service at:
1-877-286-3559

Call Customer Service at:
1-877-286-3559

Important Numbers for YOUR PROVIDERS

Dental:

Submit all claims to:
Health Design Plus
P.O. Box 2584
Hudson, OH 44236

Medical:

Submit all claims (in-network and out-of-network providers) to:
The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan in the state where services are rendered. If Medicare is primary, file claims to Medicare.

Pre-certification:

Call HDP at:
1-877-286-3560

For benefits and eligibility verification call Anthem at:
1-800-676-BLUE (2583)

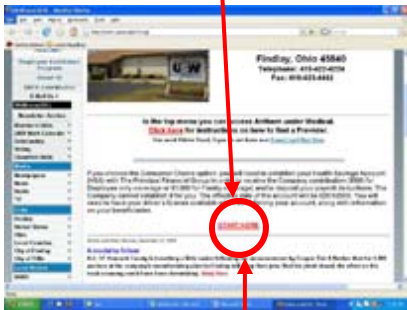
Check Online at: anthem.com We have a link to Anthem from our web site and instructions to help you find a Provider.

Feel free to contact Health Design Plus about your plan Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (Eastern) at 1-877-286-3559. For eligibility information, contact Anthem at 1-800-676-BLUE (2583)

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

If you choose the Consumer Choice option, you will need to establish your Health Savings Account (HSA) with The Principal Financial Group in order to receive the Company contribution (\$500 for Employee only coverage or \$1,000 for Family coverage) and to deposit your payroll deductions. The Company cannot establish it for you. The effective date of the account will be 02/01/2009. You will need to have your driver's license available when establishing your account, along with information on your beneficiaries.

The Web Site is:
<https://secure02.principal.com/bank/apps/naohsa/index.do?sponsor=HSA0001292>



I have placed a link to this site on our web site: **START HERE**
<http://www.uswlocal207l.org>

****** REMEMBER ******

All medical enrollment forms must be turned in by **1-23-09 or YOU WILL HAVE NO INSURANCE FOR 2009.** Also, if you have any questions, you can contact HR or our Union.

A model to follow

EDITORIAL from the Blade Article published Monday, December, 2008

All of Hancock County is breathing a little easier following the announcement by Cooper Tire & Rubber that the 1,100 workers at the company's manufacturing plant in Findlay will keep their jobs. Had the plant closed, the effect on the local economy could have been devastating.

That the Findlay workers survived is very good news but what is unusual, practically unique, about the tire maker's decision was that it chose to keep the unionized Ohio facility open while closing a nonunion plant in Albany, Ga., laying off about 1,400 workers.

It is just possible that what occurred in Findlay could become a template for how employers, unions, and government can work together to preserve jobs and profitability. Earlier this month, union members at the Findlay plant, represented by the United Steelworkers, agreed to deep cuts in wages and benefits that will save Cooper \$30 million over three years. Those concessions - along with a generous incentive package of grants, loans, and tax credits put together by state and local officials, saving the tire company an additional \$27.5 million - may have been what tipped the scales in favor of keeping the hometown plant open.

Cooper chief executive Roy Armes suggested as much when he noted that "government and community agencies were actively engaged and involved and offered a high level of support."

It hasn't always been that way. Over the last century, labor unions led an often contentious fight for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. While that battle eventually lifted the fortunes of all

workers, union employees tend to have higher wages and more comprehensive benefit packages than their non-unionized brethren.

But in recent decades, union membership has declined dramatically. As the sometimes heated discussion surrounding the Detroit auto industry's problems demonstrates, many experts lay at least some of the blame on the high wages, costly health and retirement benefits, and worker protections written into contracts during better economic times. In addition, union leaders have sometimes appeared intractable in their desire to preserve those salaries and benefits, even in the face of less desirable alternatives such as layoffs and plant closings. Companies often responded by moving their factories to states where unions were weak or nonexistent, often in the South and West.

What's happening at Cooper Tire, therefore, bucks both conventional wisdom and the trend of recent years, and the Findlay plant will not be the only beneficiary. Cooper's other union plant in Texarkana, Ark., expects to pick up some of the slack created by the Georgia plant closing and could add as many as 300 workers.

Clearly, Cooper's decision is a testament to the productive, constructive relationship between the management and the United Steelworkers leadership in the plant. This is how things should be, and the Findlay plant should be used as a model for other unionized manufacturing plants.

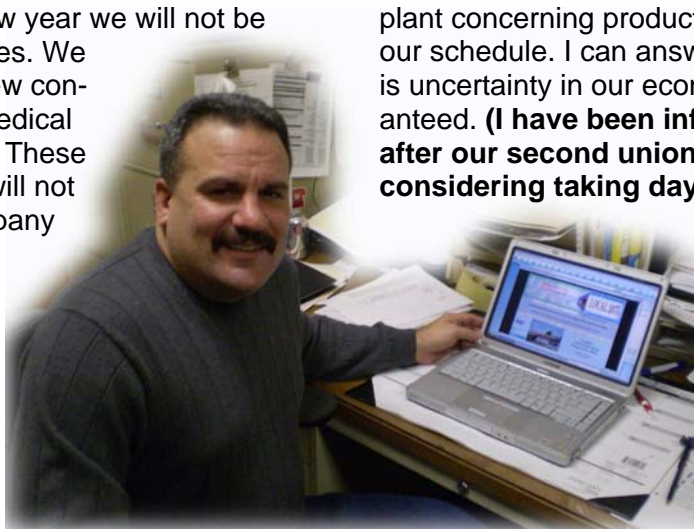


From Your Local President

Dear Friends,

As we start out the new year we will not be without many more challenges. We started working under the new contract Jan. 3rd with the new medical plan being effective Feb. 1st. These are huge changes but they will not be the only. Expect the company to keep looking for ways to save costs until they are in a position of profitability in a tough industry in the midst of a sick economy.

We all lived through the toughest negotiations in the history of our plant and survived a plant closure. We could dwell on the past and what negatives we got out of it or we can focus on the future and try to improve on what we have. I want our union to move forward and to continue its purpose, to unite, to cultivate friendship and improve on the working people's state of affairs.



There are a lot of rumors going around the plant concerning production days being taken out of our schedule. I can answer to that by saying there is uncertainty in our economy and nothing is guaranteed. **(I have been informed this morning, just after our second union meeting, the company is considering taking days out.)** Things could

change for the better or for the worst. There is just no way to predict the future. We all need to live responsibly and hope the tire industry and economy recovers quickly.

Thanks for all the support, patience and understanding during the past year. Your officers,

stewards and committee people will always be more than willing to serve our membership and perform our duties to the best of our abilities through the very best of times and the most difficult of times.

Rodney

Congress's Solis to Be Obama's Pick for Labor Post

By Kim Chipman and Julianna Goldman

Dec. 18 (Bloomberg) -- Representative Hilda Solis, a California Democrat, is President-elect Barack Obama's choice to be Labor secretary, according to Democratic officials.

Solis, 51, is a four-term member of Congress with an extensive record on environmental issues. Her legislative accomplishments include spearheading a bill to provide workers with training for "green-collar" employment. Such initiatives are a hallmark of Obama's plan to address the country's energy

needs and create new jobs.

Obama has promised to press an ambitious labor agenda to strengthen unions, protect jobs and bolster the middle class. The president-elect is set to announce the Solis appointment tomorrow in



Chicago, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Solis, who grew up in a union household in Los Angeles County, is a favorite of labor groups, including the Service Employees International Union.

"We're thrilled," said SEIU President Andy Stern, who canvassed door-to-door with Solis when she first ran as a state senator.

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(Continued from page 5)

(Labor Post)

“She’s been as strong a voice for justice for SEIU workers like our janitors and homecare workers as we’ve ever had.”

The new Labor secretary will be at the forefront of the push for a new law, the Employee Free Choice Act, aimed at making it easier for workers to organize. The measure is organized labor’s top priority for the new administration and Congress.

Legislation Opposed

There is strong opposition to the legislation from businesses and Republicans and some Democrats, including the Reverend Al Sharpton. The proposed law would require employers to automatically recognize a union once a majority of workers sign up to join one. Current rules require a federally supervised election process. Critics say the law would deny employees a secret ballot election and make them vulnerable to union scare tactics. Supporters say the companies are the ones that often use illegal intimidation to stop employees from organizing.

Solis, whose father was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and mother a member of the United Rubber Workers, is a strong advocate of the so-called card check bill. Obama pledged in his campaign to fight for the measure.

Labor officials have been grumbling recently that some of

Obama’s Cabinet choices lack strong labor ties. Union chiefs also question why Obama didn’t announce his choice for Labor secretary when he introduced his core economic team, putting them on alert about what kind of influence the Labor Department will have in the new administration.



Workers’ Rights

“Hilda Solis has been a solid supporter of workers’ rights, and so from the labor movement’s point of view, this is someone who will be a strong advocate,” said Jonathan Tasini, executive director of the Labor Research Association in New York.

“My hope is that she will also have the ear of the president and, when key economic policies are thrashed out, she will be given a voice equal to that of the Commerce and Treasury Departments and economic voices that represent business,” Tasini said. Solis would succeed Elaine Chao, who has held the job for all eight years of the Bush administration, making her the longest-serving Labor secretary since Frances Perkins under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

To contact the reporter on this story: Kim Chipman in Chicago at kchipman@bloomberg.net.

Fitness Center Enrollment & Reimbursement

What qualifies as a Fitness Center?

- The Fitness Center must be in business in a local community for at least two years or be nationally affiliated.
- The Fitness Center must offer both cardiovascular and strength training equipment as fitness options.

How Do I Participate?

- Complete agreement form on reverse side.
- Submit the agreement form along with a copy of your paid invoice to your HR office.
- This reimbursement only covers the base membership price plus tax.

How Will I be Reimbursed?

- Cooper will reimburse 50% of your membership, plus tax, up to the 1 yearly rate of \$350.00. If you have selected Consumers Choice health care coverage, you will be reimbursed up to the yearly rate of \$400.00.
- You can receive your reimbursement in your paycheck in installments, or if you pay the entire amount, you can receive a one-time reimbursement in your paycheck.

Deadline: Jan. 23, 2009

RE-CAP From Last Year

Just how do problems get fixed around here?

We hear this question quite frequently. If you have a problem with a piece of equipment or any issue that involves maintenance, a work order must be submitted through the MAPS system.

Here's how it works:

A problem is noticed, tell your foreman or supervisor, ask them to submit a work order and give you the number of that work order. If no action is taken contact your Union Steward, give them your work order number. (Just remember that anything major must get approved by the department head, and that takes time) if there is still no action, have your steward contact the hall and if it is safety related contact either Dan Radebaugh or Mike Welty. Most of the time a work order is not clearly specified so no action is taken.

Rapid Response

Rapid Response committee would like to thank everyone who was involved in signing signatures last year. We cannot tell you how important this is. With our economy heading in a downward spiral, we need more than ever to be diligent to the issues that affect us. This year we plan on signing more letters and sending them to our representatives in Washington DC.

Some of the issues of concern are the Employee Free Choice Act, Fair Trade and Health Care. It is important for us to do what we can to keep manufacturing going strong in this country.

We usually obtain approximately 700 to 800 signatures for each letter we send. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Rapid Response Committee

Feedback

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of USW Local 207L

I am a retired member of the UAW who would like to extend my congratulations to you for keeping American Manufacturing on the mend.

Two years ago I retired from GM after having moved from plant to plant in an attempt to "get my 30" and secure my pension. I and my family are the "legacy costs" so many of the politicians would like to cut. Until this past November we had descended into a society that blithely discards people without a thought. How many steel workers and auto workers have suffered under this regime?

January 20th we'll start a new chapter in our history that I hope is writ large with the contributions of working people across this great land. We worked hard to make this change now stay involved so that everyone in America once again is rewarded with a standard of living that honors our God given human dignity.

Economic systems exist to serve humanity....not the other way around!

I'm replacing my tires tomorrow with Cooper Tires for my trip to Washington D.C.

Solidarity Forever,
Kurt Bateman
Columbus, OH



You can now post messages on our web site. You have to login, if you do not have a username and password, you can register on our site.



1976 Winter Olympics

Photo by Jeffrey A. Fuhrer

FEBRUARY 2009

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