

Brothers and Sisters:

I want to take this time to thank everyone who signed the letters to President Obama over the 421 Trade embargo. It will put a tariff on imported China tires, and make no mistake these were the same tires we build here in our plant! We sent 850 letters from this plant alone.



I also want to thank everyone who called their Congressmen and Senators over Healthcare Reform. We still need to keep making those calls, there will be flyers on the tables with the number to call, it's easy, it helps and it's free. Your Representatives need to hear from you!! We will also be calling or writing to them over Employee Free Choice Act, which will make it easier for people to join or form a union. There will also be an action over "Make it in America", I hope all of you will help.

Right now stimulus money is being used to build wind turbines and solar panels in China, this money was supposed to put Americans back to work and we must make sure it is!

On a better note, we will be asking you to help with "Toys for Tots" by bringing in a new unwrapped toy for some boy or girl who won't have a Christmas present without you. This year there is more of a need than ever.
Thanks in advance.

In Solidarity
Charlie Odier
Rapid Response



Ergonomic Health & Safety

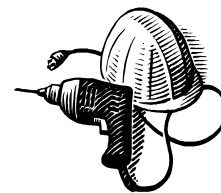
We all should be concerned first and foremost with Safety on our jobs. Everyone can see that we are making a lot of changes to improve Safety across the plant. To be successful, we all need to become involved in making sure that these changes are implemented properly. We also need to make sure that everyone affected is properly trained when these improved methods and or equipment modifications are made.

I can't over stress the importance of each of you using the "Bird Houses" in your area to record Safety issues. When you show your concern by taking the time to put your issue down on these boards you give us a way to track and follow the progress towards resolving your problem.

There are several projects in the works, headed towards our plant in the next year. As we go about implementing these improvements we need to continue to show our ability to work through problems. Our ability to demonstrate that, as a plant and as a Union, we have the strength and competence to work through problems, that is giving us the opportunity for our future.

Have a Safe and Happy Holidays

Wm. F. Bosch
Health & Safety Rep.
U.S.W. Local 715



Pension and Insurance

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Union Hall (260)632-4816. My hours are 7:00-3:30 starting 01/01/2010. For anyone needing to come at a different time just call.

Marry Christmas and Happy New Year

USW LOCAL 715

Rosemary Hissong

Pension and Insurance Rep.

Message from the President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this time to update you on the Christmas Shutdown. With the changing times and the condition our economy is in, I know how important it is to work with our company to survive. If you look around you'll see a lot of companies failing, family members and friends are unemployed and the communities we live in are devastated with unemployment. We need to be flexible and never take what we have for granted. We need to secure our future. The company has informed me that we can sell every tire we make. If we don't make them here, somebody else will make them and more than likely, they will continue to make them. During our last canvassing of the membership, we had about 50% of the people who elected to work. To my understanding now, that was acceptable to our company to produce our priority tires that we need. But they would like to see a higher percentage from those who were undecided. If the bargaining committee and company come to an agreement to re-canvass the employees, this will be done right after the Thanksgiving Holiday.

To those of you that made your plans for the Holidays, be safe and have a Happy Holiday. For those who haven't, consider the opportunity to make some extra money and satisfy the need of our customers. The choice is yours to make.

USW LOCAL 715
James Wetzel
President

INSTITUTE FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The 2010 spring sessions are enrolling now and will be starting soon after the holidays, so I encourage any and everyone who has an interest in improving themselves inside the plant or doing ANYTHING outside of B.F. Goodrich should call or come see me at the Union Hall. My job is to help all Local 715 Union members to enhance themselves personally and, or professionally. You are entitled to \$1800.00 per year (January 1st to December 31st) for training and, or schooling of your choice, so let me help you get the ball rolling.

I'm proud to announce that we are offering classes to the membership at the Local 715 Union Hall. We currently have classes scheduled to run for the 2010 spring semester, which fliers have been posted in every department in the plant for your viewing. The list of classes to start the New Year off is as follow: 1. "Microsoft Certified Desktop Support Technician II Class" starts 01/04/10. 2. "A+ Certification Class" starts 01/05/10. 3. "Spanish II Class" starts 01/05/10. 4. "How to Start and Run a Small Business Class" starts 01/06/10. 5. "Intro to MTM Class" starts 01/08/10. 6. "Small Engine Repair

Class" starts 01/12/10. 7. "Beginning Computer Awareness Class" starts 01/19/10. 8. "Microsoft Word Computer Class" starts 01/20/10. 9. "MTE I: Intro to Electrical Principles Class" starts 01/21/10. 10. "Motorcycle Performance Enhancement Class" is scheduled to start 06/01/10.

You will be able to view the class schedule on the Locals web page under ICD Page. I am creating a Face Book web page for the ICD Program. The web master is currently working on updating the web page to get all classes on the site for you to view. For a complete list of classes, check the union board in your department or feel free to call the union hall at (260)632-4816 or email me at icd@usw715.org or Facebook.com (ICD AT BFGOODRICH-Fort Wayne).

In Solidarity,
Vernon Johnson
ICD Coordinator



2009 Holiday Safety Tips

Trees:

- When purchasing an artificial tree look for the label "Fire Resistant"
- With a real tree, cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard

Lights:

- Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks
- Check all lights, even if you have just purchased them, before hanging them on your tree. Make sure all bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets, or loose connections

Toy Safety:

- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children
- Children under age 3 can choke on small parts contained in toys and games. Government regulations specify that toys for children under the age 3 can not have parts less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches long



From Local 715 Time Study

If you have kept up with the news concerning the tire industry, you know that President Obama signed a tariff provision on passenger and light truck tires imported from China. These tires are hit with a 35% tariff for the first year, 30% for the second year and 25% for the third year. He did so, based on the findings of the United States International Trade Commission, and of the United States Trade Representative to China, on a Section 421 Trade Case that was filed on our behalf by our own International Union.

The 421 provision was a part of the agreement that China made with the United States when they were trying to gain membership in the WTO, the World Trade Organization. The 421 provision provides that if a United States domestic product is hurt by imports from China, the United States President has the right to take action to curb the harm. Specifically, it gives our President the right to take actions that enable our domestic industry to have time to revamp so that they can compete with the product China wants to send us.

It was my privilege to be a part of the case, offering applicable advice during case preparations, and in answering questions in the hearings, first with the ITC and then later with the United States Trade Representative to China, along with representatives of the various Cabinet level departments of the United States government. Our International President, Leo Gerard, is an absolute expert on trade laws. That is not just my own opinion. I wish all of you could have seen the way the Commissioners on the ITC and the U.S. Trade Representative to China interacted with Leo. It was crystal clear that they had the highest respect for his ability and knowledge. I must also acknowledge the efforts and dedication of Stan Johnson, USW International Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Conway, USW International Vice President, Ron Hoover, retired Vice President of the RPIC Division of the USW, and Jim Wansley, retired President of the now closed Goodyear Tire Plant in Tyler Texas. All of these men were great in explaining the current state of the North American tire industry, its recent past, and its projected future, absent intervention from Chinese imports.

Unfortunately, the 421 relief did not come along in time to stop the plant closure in Opelika. All through the case, and while awaiting President Obama's decision, I held out hope for Opelika. It was just too late for them when help finally came.

LOCAL 715
Les Wilson
Times Study Chairman



What is Learn United?

Learn United is a community wide volunteer campaign to eliminate the 3rd grade reading achievement gap within 10 years.

How will United Way meet this community goal?

United Way will focus on 4 areas:

- Increase access to first trimester health care for pregnant women with the goal of improving birth outcomes.
- Developing early literacy skills for preschoolers living in poverty.
- Supporting struggling school-age readers.
- Inspiring the community to value reading by volunteering and donating resources to the cause.

What can I do?

- ✓ **Give:** donate to United Way of Allen County.
- ✓ **Advocate:** tell your friends, family and co-workers about Learn United.
- ✓ **Volunteer:** sign up to help a struggling reader by visiting www.learnunited.org



2-1-1 is a United Way-operated information and referral phone service that links people in 10 northeast Indiana counties with health and human service agencies.

2-1-1 is available in Adams, Dekalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, Legrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties.

The call center can be reached 24 hours a day simply by dialing 2-1-1.

Among the needs for which information and referrals are offered are food, shelter, clothing, counseling, medical assistance, and financial assistance.

USW Local 715

USW Local 715 PO Box 327 Woodburn In. 46797... Phone 260-632-4816... Fax # 260-632-4915 On the Web... usw715.org

On The Web

Be sure to visit our Local 715 website **USW715.org**

You'll find links and information pertaining to Local 715 and also community links such as Newspapers, Festivals, and things of that sort. Any comments or suggestions you may have are always welcome.