



AUTOMOBILE • AEROSPACE • AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS of AMERICA (UAW)

LOCAL 974 NEWS

Representing Workers at Caterpillar, LTD Industries,
Tazewell Machine, Norforge, and Delavan City Workers



VOLUME 57 ISSUE 2

62

APRIL 2009

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

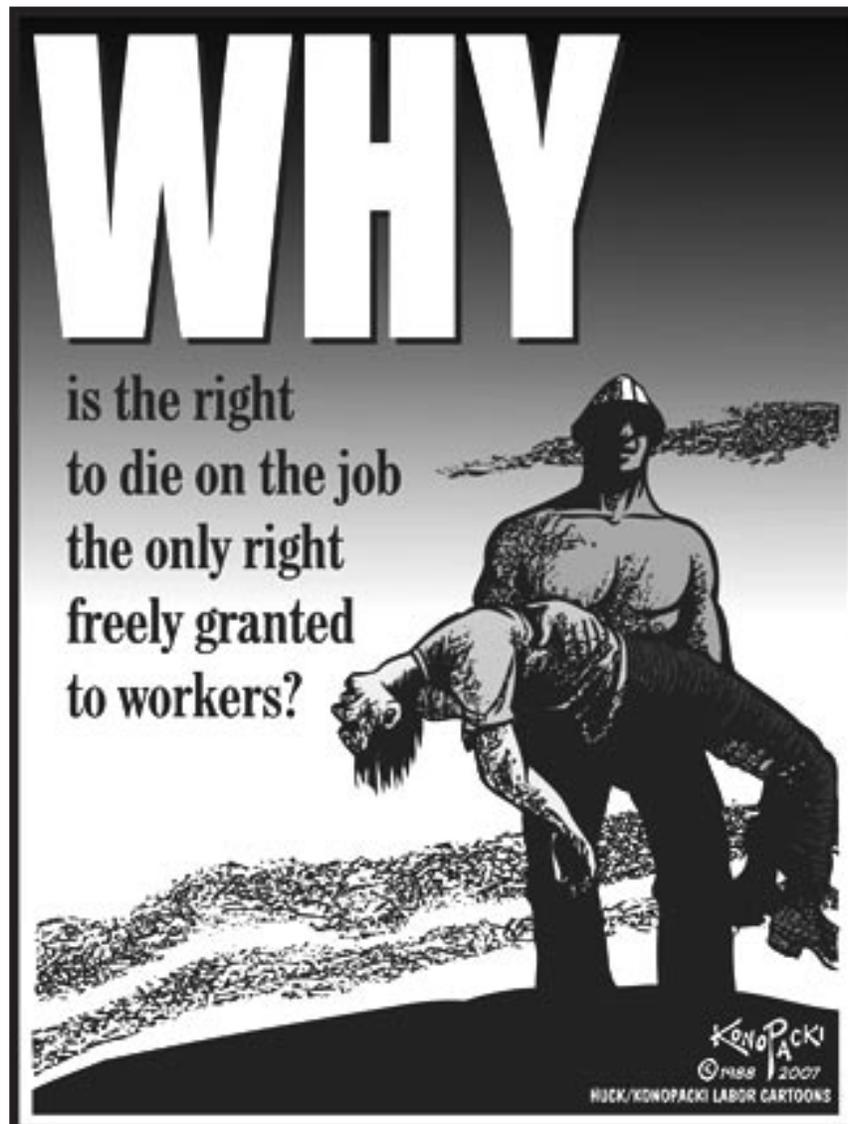


Illustration courtesy Huck/Konpacki Labor Cartoons

UAW LOCAL 974 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Executive Vice-President

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(Open)

Bargaining Chairman - LTD

Rod Malott

Bargaining Chairman - PMP

(Open)

Bargaining Chairman - Norforge

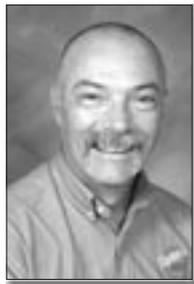
Pamela Smith

Bargaining Chair. - Taz. Machine

Terry Beebe

Bargaining Chair. - City of Delavan

Jeff Larimore



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

RICK DOTY, President

At the writing of this article there is still no word on the Engine Division jobs in Mossville...we are continuing to work and meet with legislators with the hopes of saving them. I am publishing

the contact information for your elected officials (see page 7) to allow you the opportunity to voice your concerns, stories and opinions.

Some of you have expressed displeasure in the "It's Better Here" campaign running on our televisions, radios, and newspapers. I too share your displeasure and as I stated in the Journal Star "it smacks of gloating and does little to help those losing their jobs." Splashing a bunch of statistics up in a graph is of little value to the local morale. I have published The Heartland Partnership contact information as well so that you can contact them to see if they can be of any assistance to our displaced members. Perhaps The Heartland Partnership has information on businesses entering our communities that will be filling the 1400+ job loss Caterpillar is creating and just haven't made that announcement. I am doubtful.

In keeping with that theme I would however like to borrow the concept and go on record as saying to Caterpillar... "IT IS BETTER HERE"...the birth of your company over 75 years ago was founded and literally honed on the very soil of this community. Caterpillar owes Peoria and the surrounding areas it's eternal loyalty and with that comes the first opportunity to reap the benefits through employment.

If I may I would like to list a few obvious reasons for why "IT IS BETTER HERE" in the event that Caterpillar has overlooked these:

- ✓ In the Peoria area there are a number of state of the art facilities in which a highly skilled work force manufactures products. These facilities and workers allow Caterpillar to remain at record

profit levels year in and year out. Utilizing these established facilities would allow Caterpillar to save at least 200 million dollars off the bottom line; today...I would say that's a "Quick Win" in light of this very rocky economy and the fiscally responsible thing to do.

- ✓ Employee turnover may very well be great in Texas in that they don't have the long history of Caterpillar being in their community as well as the multi-generational pride in workmanship of Caterpillar products. Replacing and training employees in Texas will be extremely expensive and ongoing from day one.
- ✓ We have been shipping engines out of Mossville to the rest of world for 30+ years. Processes and businesses are in place locally to make this happen every day and rely on your business to flourish. If the process is broken, fix it at a local level and continue to feed the local community that has fed you.
- ✓ Peoria International Airport is but a few miles away and can ship all over the world. Our rail system is readily accessible and a sensible way to ship.

Caterpillar Leadership the message is this: It truly is time to walk away from your long standing history of taking care of yourselves first and show loyalty to your employees and supporting communities. You have the unique opportunity to be an American company that responds by making a difference and rising above other companies in "it's the right thing to do" category. Let me suggest the first step in showing such loyalty. Leave the Mossville Engine Division in Mossville where it was born and belongs.

Loyal \ adj : faithful to a country, cause, or friend

In Solidarity, Rick Doty, President

CATERPILLAR IS SET TO RECEIVE THESE MONIES

Caterpillar in Sequin, Texas

Cost of new plant: \$170-180 million New jobs: 1,400

Operations: Engine production, testing and painting. (The work is currently performed in Mossville, Illinois and Greenville, South Carolina. Recently 814 workers were laid off in Mossville. It is unknown how many workers will be laid off in Greenville.)

Wages at new facility unknown. \$21/hr (It is unknown if this includes benefits. The local newspaper reported the wage will be \$21/hr not including benefits, but this hasn't been confirmed by anyone from Caterpillar or any public official.) Average wage for engine assemblers: San Antonio, Texas area \$16/hr; Mossville, Illinois \$17/hr (\$30-32 an hour including benefits); Greenville, South Carolina \$14/hr

Incentives:

- \$10 million from the Texas Enterprise Fund
- Tax abatements and infrastructure improvements worth \$6 million from the City of Sequin
- A cash rebate equal to five percent of payroll for ten years
- Tax abatements and infrastructure improvements worth \$5 million from the County of Guadalupe
- Triple Freeport tax exemption allows goods to be stored tax-free for up to 175 days
- Double Jumbo Enterprise status (worth \$5,000 per job created, up to \$2,500,000)

CATERPILLAR IS SET TO RECEIVE THESE MONIES

Caterpillar in North Little Rock, Arkansas

Cost of new plant: \$140 million New jobs: 600

Operations: Production of commercial motor graders. (The work is currently performed in Decatur, Illinois. Caterpillar recently announced the layoffs of 1,026 production workers at the Decatur facility. The facility manufactures off-highway trucks, motor graders and wheel tractor scrapers.)

Wages at new facility unknown. Caterpillar spokesperson said they would be "competitive." Average wage for assemblers: Little Rock, Arkansas area \$13.81/hr; Decatur, Illinois \$24/hr

Incentives:

- \$3 million for a test track and other infrastructure from the state of Arkansas
- A refund of sales taxes on construction materials to build the plant
- A cash rebate equal to five percent of payroll for ten years
- A new \$8 million power substation from the City of Little Rock*
- A new \$800,000 wastewater treatment facility from the city of North Little Rock*
- Reduced electricity rates for five years worth \$2 million and carbon offsets worth over \$2.5 million from the city of North Little Rock

* One news report stated that the substation and wastewater facility were already being planned.



BARGAINING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

WES HOGSETT, Bargaining Chairman

Brothers & Sisters. I hope that the weather breaks soon because I am ready for Spring.

It has finally slowed down at Cat. Between the Company's outsourcing decisions and the economy, the Company has laid off 774 employees at Mossville, announced

573 employees to be laid off in TTT with more expected in the future. I know that this is a hard situation to deal with because I went through the same thing in the 80's. I was laid off from 1983 until 1988. We are hopeful that our new President can turn this Country around in the near future and all will have the opportunity to be recalled back to Caterpillar. If there is any way that this Union can help those being laid off we will do everything possible to help. Good luck to all!

As of March 1, 2009, there are 3,214 grievances in the arbitration backlog. Of these, 136 are discharges and separations. Arbitration started up again in this Local on February 17 with the case of Richard and Bobbie Fornoff being heard. Both of them were discharged for insubordination because they exercised their contractual rights to smoke on June 2, 2008. I believe the hearing went well. On February 18, 2009, the discharge case of Jim Sergison for an alleged threat was heard. Both of these cases were from the Mossville Engine Center. We also have two dates scheduled in March. March 11 and 12 are also dedicated to Mossville. The next arbitration dates after March are April 7, 8 and 9 – TBU, Mapleton and SPBU have these dates. It appears as of now that we are going to be able to put the smoking issue in front of an arbitrator on one of the open dates in August.

Rick Doty, Dale Swanson, Sheldon Miesner and myself attended a Cat Council Meeting in Lincolnshire, Illinois on January 29. There is an Ag-Imp and Cat. Council Meeting in Bettendorf, Iowa on March 4 and 5. Rick Doty, Jack Trone, Joe Maxwell and myself are scheduled to attend.

I will now go over what you are entitled to while laid off. Any employee hired full-time before January 10, 2005 is eligible for supplemental unemployment benefits, (SUB) pay, while on

layoff. The SUB fund is currently 127.5% funded. As long as the SUB fund is above 50% funded you are eligible to receive 95% of your take home pay for a 40 hour week – minus \$24.50 for non-incurred work related expenses. When the fund falls under 50% but not less than 35% you are eligible for \$150 per week, when the fund falls below 35%, you will be eligible for \$100 per week. If eligible, you can receive up to 52 weeks of SUB pay. Employees hired full-time after January 10, 2005, who have at least three years seniority, are eligible to receive \$100 for each week of layoff for a maximum of 26 weeks during the life of the agreement. This payment will be made in the pay period immediately following the week(s) of layoff. Those employees eligible for SUB are required to fill out a SUB application for each week of layoff. Employees eligible for the \$100 payment, have nothing to fill out, the Company takes care of this.

Employees who are placed on indefinite layoff and who receive unemployment compensation from the state and sub pay or any layoff benefit (\$100 per week payment) are required to pay Union dues equivalent to one hour of their base hourly rate. It is the member's responsibility to pay their dues. It will not be deducted from their \$100 payment. Laid off members who are not eligible for the \$100 payment or who have exhausted the 26 weeks will not owe dues. I am going to advise all, who while on layoff are not required to pay dues, to come to the Union Hall and take out a withdrawal card. This card will keep those members in good standing.

Recall rights are as follows: Employees placed on indefinite layoff shall have recall rights equal to their seniority at the time of layoff or three years whichever is less. Three years is the maximum recall rights that anyone hired after January 10, 2005 can have.

In closing, I am offering any assistance that I can give to any members and wish those affected by layoffs, the best of luck.

In Solidarity,
Wes Hogsett, Chairman Bargaining Committee



HEARTLAND VISION

HEARTLAND VISION – PEORIA'S UNION SHOP OPTICAL PROVIDER

Call Heartland Vision to set an appointment and have them verify your eligibility

2524 W. Farrelly Avenue, Peoria (Next to Avanti's)
309-681-4679 www.heartlandvision.com



Your vision benefits through your United Health Vision Plan provides members and dependents with a \$150 benefit to be used for eye exam and materials. This benefit is available every two calendar years.

HEARTLAND VISION WILL EXTEND A 20% UNION ENDORSEMENT DISCOUNT ON MOST PURCHASES, apply your benefits, and the difference is your out-of-pocket expense.

Heartland Vision also accepts your old insurance plan for members who retired before 1992.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

JOHN SHALLENBERGER, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

With the economic downturn, we are seeing shutdowns and layoffs. This in turn brings questions about union dues.

I hope this will answer your questions.

SHUT DOWNS AND LAYOFFS

If you are on a shutdown or layoff for the complete month and did not work forty (40) hours in that month, you do not owe your regular two (2) hours of union dues for the month.

However, according to UAW guidelines (Administrative Letter No. 4):

- If a member receives Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (S.U.B.) (or any equivalent type of layoff benefit) equal to or greater than fifty percent (50%) of his/her gross pay for a forty (40) hour week less statutory deductions, then the member's dues shall be one (1) hour straight-time pay per month.
- A member who receives Unemployment Compensation Benefits but does not receive S.U.B. (or any equivalent type layoff benefit), will not have Unemployment Compensation Benefits alone computed in determining whether or not the member owes dues.
- However, if a member receives both Unemployment Compensation Benefits and S.U.B. (or any equivalent type

layoff benefit), the Unemployment Compensation Benefits will be included in the computation in determining whether or not the member received the equivalent of fifty percent (50%) of her/his gross pay for a forty (40) hour week during a calendar month."

Unemployment Compensation Benefit + S.U.B.
= **One (1) hour dues**

Unemployment Compensation Benefit + \$100.00 payment from Caterpillar
= **One (1) hour dues**

Unemployment Compensation Benefit ONLY
= **0 (NO DUES OWED)**

If you work forty (40) hours in a month, you owe two (2) hours of pay dues for that month.

So, if you work forty (40) hours and then go to layoff for a week, or even the rest of the month, the original two (2) hours dues you paid is all that you owe.

To all the members going to layoff, always keep your chin up. One thing about working at Caterpillar, there is going to be a lot of ups and downs. You probably have heard over and over from Retirees and Co-workers, "I have been there," but to walk in those shoes is an experience you will never forget. It is one you never want anyone to have to go through, but never let a Company like this get you down!

V-CAP CHECK OFF

Remember you can sign up to get V-CAP check off deducted right out of your check. As little as \$2 a month gets you a chance for your name to be put in the drawing.

PLEASE CONTACT DUES OFFICE

If you are on Medical, Worker's Compensation, Family Leave, or Military Duty, or if you have recently retired or separated, please contact the Dues Office with this information. This will be of great assistance to the Local in order to keep our records accurate and current. It will also help keep records for you if needed.

SOLDIERS BIBLE

Bill Brandon, a brother from Local 2488, has pocket-sized Bibles for our members that have served or are still active. Feel free to contact me and drop by and pick up your copy. These Bibles were donated but we are asking for a freewill donation to help maintain an adequate supply for the membership.



SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

As always, please keep all the service men and women in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
John R. Shallenberger

RECAPITULATION as of January 31, 2009

Income	\$ 312,532.56
Expenditures	<u>287,648.37</u>
Excess of Income over Expense	\$ 24,884.19

Regular Dues received on	6,414
Bonus Dues received on	1
Initiation Fees received on	14

PER CAPITA TAXES:

International Union UAW	\$ 155,004.75
CAP Council	\$ 11,680.00
CAT Council	\$ 7,401.20
Retirees Dues PCT	\$ 234.00
Ag Council	\$ 254.56
Council of West Central Illinois	\$ 184.00
IPS Council Pooled Arb. Fund	<u>\$ 16.32</u>
Total	\$ 174,774.83

"There is a direct relationship between the bread box and the ballot box."

WALTER REUTHER

RECAPITULATION as of February 28, 2009

Income	\$ 306,464.68
Expenditures	<u>302,717.03</u>
Excess of Income over Expense	\$ 3,747.65

Regular Dues received on	6,206
Initiation Fees received on	7

PER CAPITA TAXES:

International Union UAW	\$ 154,496.92
CAP Council	\$ 9,968.37
CAT Council	\$ 7,405.34
Retirees Dues PCT	\$ 717.60
Ag Council	\$ 252.24
Labor Council of West Central Ill.	\$ 184.00
IPS Council Pooled Arb. Fund	<u>\$ 11.83</u>
Total	\$ 173,036.30



INSURANCE & BENEFITS REPORT

JIM ARROWOOD, Chairman Insurance and Benefits

There are eight letters of agreement included in our non-contributory pension plan language. On February 11,

the Company chose to use letter of agreement number four. L.O.A. number four describes the special retirement supplement. Eligible members were offered additional retirement benefits. The Company chose to apply this language to pensions that would commence on March 1, 2009 and April 1, 2009. Our office was very busy during this time. We assisted in the process of determining if this offer was beneficial to our members. Congratulations to those of you who retired.

Recently one of the providers advertising in our newsletter was told by an administrator how they must bill our vision claims. After receiving direction from our insurer, Heartland Vision decided to rebate our members the Union member discount directly to our members and families. We have a list of those who received discount checks from Heartland Vision. One note to remember, please inform the staff at Heartland Vision if you want services that do not go above our allowed benefit of \$150 every other year allowance vision benefit.

Each article I try to include information based on input from our members. Once again I remind all members of the Medicare Part B reimbursement. If you are medicare eligible and have received your medicare card, it is your responsibility to enroll for reimbursement of the medicare premium. The premium for year 2009 is \$96.40 per month. Your spouse is also eligible to be reimbursed if he or she is enrolled in medicare. You must call Hewitt at 1-877-228-4010 to enroll. Even though we have included this information in past newsletters we are still hearing from members who have not contacted Hewitt to enroll. The reimbursements are paid out in January and July each year.

Please continue to remember our troops. These brave men and women endure hardships on a daily basis. Also, pray for their families, as they are sacrificing also. Peoria Area Troop Support Group, along

with UAW Local 974 are meeting at our Union Hall every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Please join us. We have been collecting funds and sending gift cards and boxes with items they use overseas.

Wednesday, February 25, I had the opportunity to participate in a mini-internship sponsored by the Peoria Medical Society and Alliance. That afternoon I accompanied Doctor Brian Cohen as he saw patients at his office on Jefferson Street in Peoria. Doctor Cohen and I each learned from each other that day. These shared experiences benefit all. I would like to thank Sue Bishop, D.M.D. for asking if I would be interested in the program and to all who participated.

Something I failed to mention in past articles – Thank you to our Retiree Officers and Committee Members. Without **you** there would be no **us**.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT if you need to come to the office to discuss our benefit language.

In Solidarity, Jim Arrowood

Mark your calendars...



**2009 Local 974
Red Cross
Blood Drives**

**Mondays 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
June 1, July 27, Sept 28, Nov 23**

W. D. "Bill" Corum, Blood Drive Coordinator

**Sponsored by UAW Retirees
Put on by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office
Open to the public**

2009 Drivers' Training Seminars

**Thursday, June 11 • 1:30pm – 3:30pm
Thursday, October 8 • 1:30pm – 3:30pm**

Local 974 Union Hall

*Helpful for people needing
license renewal and learning new laws*

CATERPILLAR BENEFITS CONTACT INFORMATION

HR SERVICES CENTER-AMERICAS/PANAMA
Toll-free: 1-800-447-6434 OR 1-309-494-2363
E-mail: HR_Service_Center@cat.com

CAT ESCALATED ISSUE RESOLUTION TEAM*
Toll-free: 1-866-494-4562

*If you have an issue or question about your benefits, always call UnitedHealthcare (UHC), Hewitt, RESTAT, MetLife or the HMO first. Employees should use this number only to help resolve active, unresolved issues with the vendor that have not been resolved through previous, direct contact with the vendor. Contacting the Escalated Issue Resolution Team is completely voluntary and is not required as part of the benefit plans formal appeal process.

DENTAL BENEFITS

UnitedHealthcare Dental

Customer Service: 1-866-228-4215

Web: myuhcdental.com

UHC Dental Claims Mailing Address:

United Healthcare Dental, Attn: Claims Unit
PO Box 30567, Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0567

MEDICAL BENEFITS

Cat Healthcare Plan (UnitedHealthcare PPO)

Customer Service: 1-866-228-4215

Web: myuhc.com

UHC PPO Claims Mailing Address:

United Healthcare, PO Box 740800
Atlanta, GA 30374-0800

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS – RESTAT

Customer Service: 1-877-228-7909

Claims Mailing Address:

RESTAT, PO Box 758
West Bend, WI 53095-0758

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS (FSA)

Healthcare and Dependent Care FSAs

Claims Administrator: UnitedHealthcare

Customer Service: 1-866-228-4215

Claims Mailing Address:

UnitedHealthcare, PO Box 981178
El Paso, TX 79998-1178

LIFE INSURANCE & VOLUNTARY BENEFITS

Claims Administrator: MetLife

Customer Service: 1-888-228-1811

Web: metlife.com/mybenefits

ELIGIBILITY, PENSION, INVESTMENTS

Plan Administrator: Hewitt

Caterpillar Benefits Center: 1-877-228-4010

Web: resources.hewitt.com/cat/

HEALTHY BALANCE

Healthy Balance: 1-888-228-9494

Web: CatHealthBenefits.com>Healthy Balance

WORK.LIFE.SOLUTIONS

(Cat Employee Assist. Program) 1-866-228-0565

Web: CatHealthBenefits.com>Work.Life.Solutions

CatHealthBenefits.com

Claim forms, provider directories and links to other Caterpillar vendor websites.



The Editor's Desk...

Rick Corbin

With the news media concentrating endlessly on stimulus bills, bailouts, and cabinet nominees who don't pay their taxes on time, it is time to remind our Members of one issue that convinced many of us to vote for Barack Obama in the first place. A certain act we want and need to be made into Federal Law. It is "The Employee Free Choice Act." This can be a pivotal piece of legislation to help us restore organized labor to its rightful place in a free society. Before the Reagan and Bush years, remember?

I thought a reminder was in order as we will need to get this act made law before the mid-term elections in the Fall of 2010. Historically, the sitting President's Party often loses seats in these elections. We need this bill!

When the time comes, please write your Congressmen and Senators for their support. See page 7 for their contact information.

Employee
FREE CHOICE
ACT



WHY DOES AMERICA NEED THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT?

More than ever, working people today need a way to get ahead.

- America's working people are stretched as never before. Wages are dropping, health care costs are rising and pensions are disappearing. For the first time in generations, people are very worried that their children will be worse off than they are.

Unions are the best route to the middle class.

- Union members make 30 percent more than workers who don't have a union. That's about \$200 a week, or \$10,000 a year!
- Union members are 50 percent more likely to have employer-provided health insurance, and the benefits and costs are better. And 67 percent of union members are covered by defined-benefit pension plans through their jobs, compared with only 15 percent of workers who don't have unions.
- And communities with strong unions have higher living standards for everybody.

Sixty million people who don't have unions say they'd join one tomorrow, but too few will ever get the chance in our corporate-dominated system.

- Companies routinely intimidate, harass, coerce and even fire people who try to form unions—and current labor law is helpless to stop them. The penalties are so slight for breaking the law that corporations simply consider it the cost of doing business. The government found that companies violated the rights of 26,824 workers in 2006 alone (and those are just the documented cases). A quarter even illegally fire workers.
- Even when workers win their unions, many companies delay bargaining any way they can. According to a new study by MIT, 44 percent of workers who form a new union never reach a first contract.

The Employee Free Choice Act is the change we need.

- The Employee Free Choice Act would put the choice of whether to form a union back in workers' hands by giving them the option of using majority sign-up, an alternative to the current company-dominated system. Large national companies with good profit margins and good labor relations, such as AT&T and Kaiser Permanente, have used majority sign-up successfully for years.
- The Employee Free Choice Act guarantees that companies can't just drag their feet on a first contract. To guarantee workers can win a union contract, it provides for mediation or binding arbitration when it's needed.
- The Employee Free Choice Act levels the playing field by putting real penalties on companies that violate the law during organizing and contract campaigns.

UAW CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- Sat 4 **Easter Egg Hunt** 10:00am
 Sun 5 **Exec Board Mtg @** 11:00am
 Sun 5 **General Council Meeting** 1:00pm
 Fri 10 **Good Friday – Union Hall Closed**
 Sun 12 **Easter Sunday**
 Wed 15 **Retirees' Potluck and Mtg** 11:30am
 Thu 16 **Safety Council Mtgs** 8:00 / 10:00 / 4:00pm
 Sat 18 **Die Cast & Toy Show** 10:00-2:00pm
 Sat 18 **Computer Club** 4:00pm
 Sun 19 **Member / Retiree Dance** 7:00 – 10:00pm
 Wed 22 **American Cancer Society Gate Drive**
 Thu 23 **Steward Council Meeting** 9:30am / 4:00pm
 Tue 28 **Rhythm City Bus Trip** 8:00am
 Tue 28 **Workers' Memorial Day**

MAY

- Tue 5 **Local 974 Newsletter Article Deadline**
 Sun 10 **Mother's Day**
 Sat 16 **Computer Club** 4:00pm
 Wed 20 **Retirees' Potluck and Mtg** 11:30am
 Thu 21 **Safety Council Mtgs** 8:00 / 10:00 / 4:00pm
 Mon 25 **Memorial Day – Union Hall Closed**
 Tue 26 **Isle of Capri Bus Trip** 8:00am
 Thu 28 **Steward Council Meeting** 9:30am / 4:00pm

Remembering Our Brothers and Sisters

On behalf of the Officers, Members and Retirees of Local 974, may we offer our deepest condolences to the families of our brothers and sisters who have recently passed away. May God comfort all of you in your loss.

January 2009

James J. Bruns	A	01/01/2009
Louis W. Hagen, Jr.	R	01/01/2009
Delbert H. Harms	R	01/02/2009
Byron R. Busby	R	01/03/2009
Ronald Stalter	R	01/04/2009
Elmer L. Bauer	R	01/05/2009
Robert O. Rudloff	R	01/05/2009
Levon R. Siscoe	R	01/05/2009
Maurice Vandenboss	R	01/05/2009
Donald W. Tunis	R	01/10/2009
Claude L. McBride	R	01/11/2009
George L. Pilgrim	R	01/12/2009
Clarence Willis	R	01/14/2009
Harold J. Tibbs	R	01/17/2009
James T. Bernier	R	01/18/2009
George E. Weidner	R	01/19/2009
Alfred G. Pleasant	R	01/20/2009
Robert S. Harris	R	01/21/2009
William R. Kinnick	R	01/21/2009
Frank W. Gibbs, Sr.	R	01/22/2009
Paul R. May	R	01/22/2009
Richard L. Hardy	R	01/25/2009
Harold E. Nixon	R	01/25/2009
LaVern E. Goett	R	01/27/2009
Myron E. Watters	R	01/27/2009
Kefton Jarrett, Jr.	R	01/28/2009
Glen R. Blessing	R	01/29/2009
Willie M. Terrell	R	01/29/2009

February 2009

Carolyn McNeeley	R	02/01/2009
James Smallwood Sr.	R	02/01/2009
Marvin J. Eberle	R	02/02/2009
Lester A. Zilm	R	02/02/2009
John A. Gluck	R	02/05/2009
Ronald B. Martin	R	02/06/2009
John R. Guymon	R	02/09/2009
Frank Kohl	D	02/11/2009
Carlos Gore	R	02/14/2009
Lyle Schupp	R	02/14/2009
Floy Fein	R	02/15/2009
Larry Thomas	R	02/16/2009
Raymond N. Kent	R	02/19/2009
Ernest J. Aupperle	R	02/22/2009
Jack H. Converse	R	02/22/2009
Ernest R. Berry	R	02/24/2009
Floyd A. Taylor	R	02/24/2009

U. S. SENATE

Roland Burris
(202) 224-2854 • rolandburris@burris.senate.gov

Dick Durbin
(202) 224-2152 • durbin.senate.gov/contact.cfm

U.S. HOUSE OF REP.

Aaron Schock
(202) 225-6201

ILLINOIS SENATE

Dave Koehler, 46 District
Pekin (309)346-4646 • Springfield (217) 782-8250

Dale Risinger, 37 District
Peoria (309) 693-4921 • Springfield (217) 782-1942

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REP.

Jehan Gordon, (D) 92 District
(309) 681-1992

Don Moffitt, (R) 74 District
Galesburg (309)343-8000 • Springfield (217)782-8032

Mike Smith, (D) 91 District
Pekin (309) 353-6276 • Springfield (217) 782-8152

David Leitch, (R) 73 District
Peoria (309) 690-7373 • Springfield (217) 782-8108

Keith Sommer, (R) 106 District
Morton (309) 263-9242 • Springfield (217) 782-0221

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TECH CENTER REPORT

JIM "HUEY" PARDIECK

TS & D (Tech Center) and Proving Grounds (PPG) has been renamed – **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (PDCOE)**.

The Tech Center now has PDCOE and CPSD (Cat Production System Division).

As of 3/3/08, the Tech Center has approximately 321 Union Brothers & Sisters. We also have 13 classifications, 9 of those are skilled trades.

We have:

- 2T22 – Metrology Technologist
- 2T24 – Fabrication Technologist
- 2T25 – Weld Technologist
- 2T26 – Heat Treat Process Technologist
- 2T27 – Machining Technologist
- 1B09 – Electrician
- 6B20 – Maintenance Mechanic
- 1K11 – Tractor & Equipment Operator
- 8T43 – Instrument Repair
- 5A11 – Experimental Mechanic
- 1Q13 – Experimental Support Spec.
- 1H11 – Experimental Heat Treat
- 8M14 – Materials Specialist

FROM THE DESK OF TANA UTLEY, VP CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER – 1/26/09

At PDCOE, we are taking the following actions:

- Define an enterprise R&D and product plan to achieve reduced R&D spend while fulfilling many regulatory obligations.
- Determine the implications of the reduced enterprise R&D spend on PDCOE workload.
- Implement trough spending levels for core and exempt work.
- Eliminate some contract and agency workers and redeploy some PDCOE employees to fill critical positions in order to align our resources with our workload.
- Tightly manage indirect material spend.
- Extend soft capital freeze through second quarter 2009.
- Reduce Engineering Rotation Development Program costs while continuing to develop engineering talent.

Clearly we face a difficult and uncertain economic climate. Our challenge is intensified by the need to meet Tier 4 regulatory requirements. Although the R&D budgets will be reduced, it is important to note Caterpillar continues to invest in product development. The PDCOE has a tremendous impact on the company's future product competitiveness. It is imperative we are effective and efficient in the roles we fulfill for Caterpillar. Please challenge yourselves and your workgroups regarding efficiency and the use of our precious time.

I've changed my staff meetings and meeting schedules with my peers to set the appropriate tone. I ask you to do the same. Challenge waste in all we do and deliver the products and services our customers deserve and respect. Thank you for your understanding and your engagement. We are committed to keeping you informed of the actions being taken, and will communicate with you as more information becomes available.

MOVES AT THE TECH CENTER

As of 2/6/09

All UAW rehired retirees/Volt supplemental workers are gone, along with most office rehired retirees.

UAW members are slowly taking the jobs back on the docks, shop trucking and all cribs. G & D Trucking and Vonachen had these jobs previously.

URS (Washington Group) numbers are being cut.

ATS employees have been told that major cuts will be made with more in sight, approximately 230 in house currently (2/8/09).

O'Brien Bros, Fritch Co., Oberlander Electric and River City numbers are being cut every week as the outside contractors' work is drying up.

Third shift in Bldg. K has been shut down and its people are going to other shifts and filling into our cribs and docks previously done by contract workers.

154 Caterpillar employees took advantage of the Company buyout January 31.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEEMEN OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

TRACK TYPE 673-3280 TRACTORS

Sheldon Miesner (SS, 1st)
Greg Goodyear (HH, 1st)
Bill Scott (LL, 1st)
Steve Popkins, (LL, 3rd)
George Cooley (HH, 2nd)

KK TBU 673-0931

Craig Miller (2nd)
Larry Morgan (1st)

MAPLETON 697-6051

Dale Swanson (1st)
Ken Woodmancy (3rd)
Mike Culbertson (1st)

MORTON 266-6631

Roger Routt (2nd)
Kevin Peterson (1st)
Matt Butler (3rd)

TECH CENTER 579-2924

Rick DeGroot (1st)
Steve Mitchell (1st)

MOSSVILLE BB 579-2202

Jack Trone (1st)
Bob Barnard (2nd)
Paul Jackson (1st)

MOSSVILLE DD 579-3488

Terry DeFrates (1st)
Bob Sea (1st)

SPBU 579-3336

RPF 675-6544

Joe Maxwell (1st)
Joe Mattingly (1st)

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NUMBERS

STEVE MITCHELL, Plantwide Safety Chairman

Congratulations, if you're reading this, you achieved the primary goal of every worker around the world – you were able to punch out and go home after your last shift. Unfortunately, for too many of our brothers and sisters, this is not the case. These days, everyone is concerned with layoffs and job uncertainty, but it's critical to remember that when all is said and done, your health and safety are the most important things you have.

Here are some numbers I received from Stephen A. Yokich at the 2009 UAW Health and Safety Conference at Black Lake that I'd like you to think about.

- 15** the number of workers who will lose their lives today as a result of **on-the-job injuries**
- 10,500** the number of **workers who will be injured today**
- 133** the number of years, on average; it will take **OSHA to inspect each workplace in the United States one time**
- 1/3 to 2/3** estimated number of **injuries to workers that will not be reported**
- 0** the number of **health and safety standards that were put forward by OSHA** without a court order during the past eight years of the Bush administration

Speaking of numbers, I recently spent forty-five minutes sitting in my car with a worker outside the OSHA area office, discussing his options after he received a disciplinary suspension. The suspension was handed down based on a technicality, but make no mistake: this worker was disciplined for getting hurt and reporting it. As we sat in the car discussing the options, the worker asked me if I could personally guarantee that the company would not come after him if he decided to file an OSHA complaint. It was clear that this man was so afraid of company retribution that not only would he refrain from filing an OSHA complaint, he wouldn't even file a grievance regarding his illegal discipline. These two actions were the only real avenues available to protect him and his family, but he was afraid to use them.

So, once again, without being held accountable for another injured worker or from having to defend its unjust actions in the grievance procedure, Caterpillar was able to threaten, intimidate and bully one of our members into not filing a health and safety complaint and at the same time made certain that this worker would never report another injury. The injury reporting system was designed to help Caterpillar eliminate workplace hazards, but the company isn't doing that – it's just making them harder to identify.

When we build or fabricate machine parts and equipment, there is a tolerance, an amount by which we are allowed to vary from the mean

dimensions or specifications. As long as we've completed our task within the specified tolerance, our efforts are considered acceptable. This only makes sense, because it's impossible to perform any tasks absolutely perfectly every time. There will always be variation from one part to the next, no matter what. I recall telling my foreman one time of a part I welded that although within tolerance, was not exactly correct. He told me, "That's why Caterpillar gives you a tolerance." Variance from perfection is acceptable when it comes to the product we build.

But when it comes to worker health and safety, the tolerance is becoming increasingly tighter.

If you don't perform perfectly and get hurt, you're going to be punished. Never mind that the way the worker did the job was the way they had been instructed or that they way they did their job was with the full knowledge of management, when workers report injuries, everything changes. It seems that responsibility is the worker's alone.

How have we fallen so far? Why are workers so afraid? I understand that times are hard these days, but do any of us have a job really worth dying for? I don't mean to be melodramatic, but if workplace hazards are not reported and corrected, the potential for a serious injury or even a fatality is very real. Who among us has a job so good that it is worth getting hurt and not reporting it?

The Steelworkers Union calls this **"Bloody Pocket Syndrome"**

<http://spewingforth.blogspot.com/2005/04/bloody-pocket-syndrome-in-steel.html>

If you read the description of the syndrome at the preceding site, you'll understand that we are not alone when it comes to employers abusing injured workers. The Steelworkers say that rather than face discipline or discharge for work-related injuries, they stuff their bloody hands into their pockets and get the injuries treated outside work. When employers feel they can successfully blame workers for all injuries – they will – no matter that the law says they should provide workers a safe workplace free of any recognized hazards. Our employer has recognized the hazards and it is you!

Is there any wonder why Caterpillar has increasingly turned to behavioral observation based "safety" programs? It is because they conveniently believe that workers are responsible for 85-95% of all injuries. I agree there is a human component to all injuries, but there is no single root cause for any injury, there are several contributing factors, but Caterpillar chooses to focus on one – you!

To illustrate the futility of the behavioral observation school of thought, last summer in their Track Talks magazine TTTBU claimed that the tens of thousands of behavioral observations made the workplace safer, but they forgot to mention a couple of things. First, the observa-

tions are a condition of employment. Workers are forced to perform them and I don't know about you, but I tend to just get by on things I'm forced to do. Second, with all of those observations having taken place, why weren't unguarded weld platforms, illegal air nozzles, damages legs on material handling racks, weld cables illegally repaired with electrical tape, bypassed door interlocks on CNC lathes, and unguarded grinders identified? Why was the lack of access to MSDS's and poor ventilation on machine tools not identified? It's hard to look for hazards when all you're doing is checking PPE.

What more basic right is there for workers, members of organized labor, than to report injuries and exposure to the hazards that caused them?

How have we allowed such a good union cause to be subverted to such a degree that workers are fearful to raise their hands and say, "This is wrong"? I can't turn back the hands of time and make this problem go away, but I can help. Your UAW Safety Committeeman and Subcommitteeman can't fix this either, but they can help. The only way we will be able to stuff this ugly genie back into the bottle is for all of us to stand together and say, "Enough is enough"!

You need to identify hazards in the workplace and make your supervisor aware of them.

You DO NOT have to use Continuous Improvement cards to do this, nor consult with your company-appointed "Team Leader" regarding health and safety issues. This is an issue strictly between you and your foreman. Caterpillar and the UAW agreed on the use of the Safety Complaint Procedure outlined in 8.3 of the Central Labor Agreement. This procedure gets results. I've had workers tell me they were tired of waiting and getting put off time and time again using CI cards. They were amazed at the speed with which issues are resolved when a UAW Safety Complaint is filed.

April 28th is WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY and this is the perfect time for us to take back the issue of health and safety in the workplace.

Your union has invested heavily in the health and safety education of your grievance handlers and your safety representatives. Nearly every business unit has had at least one person and maybe more sent to Black Lake in the past several years for intensive health and safety training. Your safety representative will do everything in their power to help you with your safety issues, but you have to take the first step. Identify hazards to your supervisor and ask to see your UAW Safety Representative. Accept no cheap imitations, insist on the genuine article and ask to see your steward if you don't get your safety rep in as the contract says, "As soon as possible, but no later than by the end on the next scheduled shift".

As Mother Jones said, **"Mourn for the dead, but fight like hell for the living"**, so let's get ready for the fight.

In Solidarity, Steve Mitchell

COMMUNITY SERVICES

A. J. MILLOY, Chairman

I'm sure everyone has seen the commercials with the curly-headed singer telling the world how he can't buy anything because he didn't check his credit rating and how he has to live with his wife's parents, work in a seafood joint, etc., and I'm sure most people wonder "why should I care."

You should care because this credit history is a direct reflection on you and how you handle your credit, and is used to determine your qualifications for a loan, how much you have to pay and how big that loan can be. It's actually a pretty concise picture of your dependability as a consumer willing to pay off his debts. It shows where you live, how you pay your bills, and whether you've been arrested, sued, or filed for bankruptcy.

Nationwide consumer reporting companies sell the information in your report to creditors, insurers, employers, and other businesses that use it to evaluate your applications for credit, insurance, employment, or renting a home.

You need to make sure this information is accurate, complete, and up-to-date to help to insure that it doesn't effect your ability to get credit, insurance, or even a job. It also helps you guard against identity theft.

What you should know is that there are three nationwide consumer-reporting companies – Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union. The Fair Credit Reporting Act requires these institutions to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every twelve months. The FCRA promotes the accuracy and privacy of the information in these files.

Only **ONE** website is authorized to fill orders for the free annual credit report you are entitled to under law – **annualcreditreport.com** – a central website set up by the three companies with a toll-free telephone number and a mailing address through which you can order your free annual report.

Other websites that claim to offer "free credit reports," "free credit scores," or "free credit monitoring" are not part of

the legally mandated free annual credit report program. In some cases the "free" report comes with strings attached. For example, some sites sign you up for a free service that converts to a pay service once the trial period runs out. If you don't cancel during the trial, you may be agreeing to let the company start charging your credit card.

Some "imposter" sites use terms like "free report" in their names, or purposely misspell annualcreditreport.com in the hopes that someone will misspell the name of the official site. Some may direct you to other sites that try to sell things or collect personal information.

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Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

(answer within 15 days after receipt of form)

If you would like to mail your request, we have forms available at the Union Hall.



**SPRING
Diecast and Toy Show**

Saturday, April 18, 2009
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Admission – \$1.00

Local 974 UAW Union Hall
Door Prizes • Food Available

Event sponsored by and all proceeds go to the
Heather Henninger Scholarship Fund

For more information contact Rick Doty (309) 694-3151

Need Help?

*If you have problems managing finances,
paying utility, mortgage, credit card bills;*

OR

*If you are having family, marital, stress,
substance abuse, emotional, or legal problems;*

OR

If you just need someone to talk to, contact your

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Melissa Bugg, Morton

Judith Poulsen, Morton

Mike Ibben, Morton

Rochelle Torres, Morton

Maxine Wilson-Jones, Morton

Chris Dickerson, TTT (SS)

Shane R. Hillard, TTT (LL)

Tim Nelson, TTT (LL)

Darleen Spencer, Mossville BB

Marcia McCann, Mossville BB

Cindy Miller, Mapleton

Mossville BB Grievance Committee Report

PAUL JACKSON, BB Committeeman

Dateline: March 3, 2009 – this is the date this article goes to the Editor.

This gives you the reader a reference date for the facts and statements contained in the following article.

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

I finally made it!! It took 32 years to get to the main line assembly and just in time for the *Going Out Of Business Sale*. Yes, everything must go. Deadline March 31, 2009. No reasonable offer refused!!! OK, so I have to admit, the original career game plan did not include screwing engines together, 10 hours a day in the Serious Nucleolus. Then again, I look around at the old warriors scattered down the line and I do not believe I was the only one who did not choose this career path.

MADE IN AMERICA

Will someone wake up that knucklehead Aaron Schock? After reading his comments in the paper about the people he represents and what they were telling him, it screams who in the heck does this man think he represents? How in the world can he believe we the American taxpayers, footing the 850 billion dollar stimulus bill would in any way shape or form not want those tax dollars spent on goods *Made in America*. Man, Get Real!!!

The Republicans argument is...other countries will retaliate by not purchasing American goods. My argument is what is the difference now? Just about every country Cat deals with has its own plant. Same goes with all big corporations, GM, Ford, and Deere. Our advantage as I see it is we never totally got out of the business. We still have factories and machines dotted all across this nation to build everything from hardware to underwear. In reality, they depend on our dollars more. I am not touting total isolationism, but there comes a time in our economy

that 300 jobs at super Wally World, does not put meat and potatoes on the table and a home with a car in the garage. Not so much in they are low paying jobs, it is we have become consumers and not manufacturers. When I grew up in the fifties, we grew it, we invented it, manufactured it, owned it, consumed it – and so did the rest of the world. Now we buy, buy, from everyone else, by-in-large, because we don't make it and lo-and-behold we have the new depression!! It is time to get back to the future.

MORE MADE IN AMERICA

One argument the Knuckleheads use is "if we make it in America it will cost more and Wally World will have to raise their prices." I refuse to buy that argument after years of Reaganomics and whatever in the hell you call what Bush just did to our Country!!!

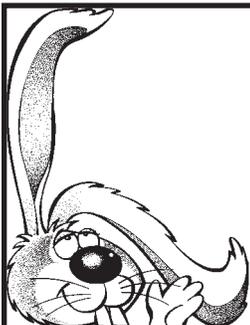
Two words – *supply* and *demand*. That is what drives costs. Case in point, several years back the company demanded we only wear Cat approved shoes. I urged everyone, Union or not, to buy American. Even though the choices of *Made in America* were limited and the cost was substantially higher, it must have struck a chord, employees responded. The results, same shoes, first pair an additional \$79, second \$47, the last pair \$33. There again – same shoes – supply and demand drove the cost down. To quote a famous movie line, "Build it and they will come." Economics is like everything else, if you want different you have to do different. The only place this trickle down, buy, buy, buy foreign goods is taking us is down the proverbial sewer pipe.

ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL...

Except when it comes to retirement incentives offered by Cat, the company offered 20,000 management employees incentives to retire. Every supervisor was offered some sort of package. In a nut shell, one to two years pay, plus regular retirement, full medical, and no deduction at social security age eligibility. The idea, and it was a good one, gets management to retire and open the door for the younger workforce and tightens the payroll belt in the process.

The UAW offer, as we all know, fell far short of this and nowhere close to being equal. If the idea was to accomplish the same thing in the Union ranks as the management ranks someone terribly missed the mark. Why were 100 Mossville UAW employees with 35 years seniority, left out of the incentive offer? The current contract only sets the minimum, not the maximum. The company could easily include all seniority eligible employees, just as they did management. The same proposal of regular retirement, no deduct at social security eligibility and one to two years of incentive wages makes sense. It fits well with their touted *Values in Action*. Even an equal buyout fits well with the principles of CPS and Six Sigma, if you believe what is written in the guidelines of those two programs.

Remember, it is not who is right, but what is right is the guiding principle of true values in action.



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 2009 10:00 am Rain or Shine Local 974 Union Hall
Prizes for the kids (Four age groups / Ages 1-12) Bring your own baskets

Great fun for everyone! Come on parents and grandparents, bring the kids out for some fun!
For more information call 694-3151

Sponsored by – Peoria Area CAP Committee / Heather Henninger Scholarship Committee / Local 974 Retirees

RETIREES CHAPTER

UAW LOCAL 974

POTLUCKS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

We invite and encourage all the new Retirees to come and join us for dinner and Bingo after the meeting.

We also encourage the spouses of deceased members of Local 974 to join us. The surviving spouses are Associate Members of our Retiree Chapter and we invite you to participate in our activities.

SCHEDULED BOAT TRIPS

RHYTHM CITY – Tuesday, April 28

ISLE OF CAPRI – Tuesday, May 26

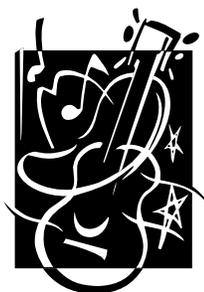
Cost is \$10.00 per person in advance, \$12.00 day of trip – no refunds. The cost includes doughnuts and coffee at the Union Hall, a meal and bus fare. Contact Jack Hidden at 673-4904 or Dale Cassel at 347-6406 to make reservations. You may also call the Retiree's Office at the Union Hall at 694-3151 and leave your name and phone number.



MEMBERSHIP & RETIREES DANCE

Sunday, April 19

7:00 – 10:00 pm



Kenny Williams & the All Stars

Come one, come all! You don't have to dance – come and listen to the music and socialize. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. NO SMOKING.

COMPUTER CLUB FOR BEGINNERS

COMPUTER CLUB meets every third Saturday at the Hall from 4:00 to 6:00pm.

It is open to the public and you can join any time. Learn about basic computer hardware and software programs. Disks are available.



COMPUTER CLASS is run by retirees and is open to all active and retired members. A new beginner's class is now forming; registrations can be made at the Union Hall or by calling Joe Covington at 382-2504 or 694-3151. Classes are \$5.00 per 2-hour session from entry level to personalized software training.

Monday / Tuesday / Thursday

10:00 am – 12:00 noon & 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

HOW CAN I JOIN THE RETIREE CLUB?

Upon retirement Local 974 members in good standing are encouraged to register at the Dues Office to become Chapter members. Retirees and their spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend the Retiree Chapter Meetings and activities.

We have a **Potluck the third Wednesday of every month** – meat, coffee and doughnuts are furnished. A variety of other activities are planned at various times throughout the year. To assist in financing these activities a two dollar (\$2.00) per month voluntary membership dues is available and can be established at the Dues Office. The largest portion of the dues dollars goes to the International Retired Workers Advisory Council who is concerned with retired workers programs and policies and such other matters as affect the welfare of retired workers.

Contact any of the Retirees' Officers at 309/694-3151

Jane Evans, Chairman

David J. LaHood, Co-Chairman

Velma Walton, 2nd Co-Chairman

Bill Corum, Recording Sec.

J.F. "Jack" Hidden, Fin. Sec.

Joe Covington, Sergeant-at-Arms

Dale Cassel, Guide

Dave Blumenstock, Trustee

Jim Tabor, Trustee

Jack "Honey" Evans, Trustee

SHORT TERM LOAN OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The Retirees have the following items that can be loaned out to our membership for their use on a short-term basis. Items can be checked out at the Dues Office.

Wheelchairs • Walkers • Porta-Potties • Cane
Cane Walker • IV Stands • Crutches • Hospital Bed



WANTED – Donations of used medical equipment, the equipment will be used for lending to our Retired and Active membership.

2009 UAW Local 974 Retirees' Bus Trips



April 28	Rhythm City
May 26	Isle of Capri
June 23	Jumer's Rock Island
July 28	Rhythm City
August 25	Isle of Capri
September 22	Jumer's Rock Island
October 27	Catfish Bend
November 24	Rhythm City
December 22	Isle of Capri

\$10 per person in advance OR \$12 the day of trip

Includes doughnuts & coffee at Union Hall, meal and bus fare

Reservations "First Come - First Served" **Sorry No Refunds**

Contact Jack Hidden 339-6220 Dale Cassel 347-6406

Join us for a day of fun!

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Drivers' License Reinstatement



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DICK B. (RICH) WILLIAMS has concentrated his practice in Bankruptcy Law and Driver's License Reinstatement for twelve years.

WILLIAM C. LOEFFEL has concentrated his practice in criminal law (both federal and state), expungements and DUI for twenty years.

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OPINIONS

A. J. MILLOY

Well, here I am again, and just when you thought it was safe to read your Union paper. I suppose most of you know by now that I am Chairman of the Community Services Committee (as well as Election Committee and Civil & Human Rights Committee – man! I got to quit missing those meetings. No telling what office you get when you ain't there!)

You know, I learned in grade school that the War between the States was over and at the end of it we became the United States of America. Well, I don't think the War IS over. I think the new War is a financial war, a war where every state does its best to give away tax money to multi-billion dollar Corporations and drive the wages and living conditions of its citizens as low as politically possible. I also think the multi-billion (or million) dollar Corporations are the cause of it.

Let's take a look at the recent Caterpillar decision to layoff workers while spending \$140 million to renovate a 700,000 square foot building in Little Rock, Arkansas that will employ 600 NON-UNION people. They will do this with a bag of loot from the Arkansas State Government amounting to around \$3 million dollars for infrastructure work for the facility and a bag of loot from a North Little Rock incentive package of around \$13 million mostly for an electric substation for the area, just to keep the lights on. The value of the building is around \$21.9 million, but no one has disclosed the actual purchase price.

Now the Mayor of North Little Rock, Patrick Henry Hays, (wait, I THOUGHT Patrick Henry was a patriot) is right glad that good ole Cat is moving in. I'm sure he's plumb sorry to hear that there are 2,924 fine Union members losing their jobs.

Let's also look at their decision to open a plant in Sequin, Texas, with a population of about 25,000. That is supposed to create 1,400 jobs (while Cat will layoff over 2,000, while adding another \$10 million to their purse from the Texas Enterprise Fund). The blocks are cast in Mexico, machined in San Antonio, and will now be assembled in Sequin to save costs. Huh? Casting moved from Mapleton to Mexico, Machining from Mossville BB & DD to San Antonio, and now assembly from Mossville to Sequin. If they wanted them close together, why didn't they leave them here? That little move is going to cost another bunch of coin, because the total cost of both projects is around \$300 million.

I guarantee the people of Arkansas and Texas, that in 10 years, when the buildings start needing money invested in them to keep them open, that the mighty Caterpillar will

be sending out feelers for the next states willing to give up tax money and lower their citizens' wages and living conditions and when they find them it will be "Adios suckers, we've got another state to plunder."

Another thing I find totally amazing (NOT) is that both Arkansas and Texas are right-to-work states. A "Right-to-Work" law secures the right of employees to decide for themselves whether or not to join a Union or financially support a Union. In other words, a person could work next to a Union member, not pay dues, not go on strike, and get all the benefits earned by that Union's membership without suffering a thing to help. Kinda like lazy relatives that sponge off the working members of their family. We've always called that kind of state

a "Right-to-Work for Less State", because the "Right-to-Work" laws disadvantage workers, the Corporations can make even greater profits at the expense of said work force.

So what is the bottom line for all this? You get states bidding against states to give away taxes and living conditions while ruining the lives of American Citizens all across the Nation, while those Corporations that are running on greed and care nothing about the Nation, its citizens, or the loyalty of their own work force are laughing all the way to the bank.

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American Cancer Society – Relay for Life

GATE DRIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

**EAST PEORIA & MORTON
MOSSVILLE & MAPLETON**

If you wish to make a donation, make your checks payable to The American Cancer Society for The Relay For Life and mail to: Relay For Life, c/o UAW Local 974, 3025 Springfield Rd., East Peoria, IL 61611

RELAY FOR LIFE (please PRINT CLEARLY and include phonetic spelling if name is difficult to pronounce)

Name of Purchaser _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
 Number of Luminaries purchased _____ at \$5.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed
 In Honor of: _____

Please make check payable to: "The American Cancer Society"
 Return this form and/or donation to: UAW Local 974, 3025 Springfield Rd., East Peoria, IL 61611-4801.
 For more information – Jim Yocum at (309) 224-8308

AUTOMOTIVE

1993 Taurus, V-6, 134,000 highway mileage, 26 mpg, good reliable work car, good tires, 309-699-6828

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Sofa and matching Chair, floral pattern, \$175; Oval Glass Top Coffee Table, \$45, good condition, 309-681-8196

Aluminum Storm Windows, several sizes, good condition, brown, Sears Best, \$10 each, 309-699-4532

SPORTING GOODS

1996 Electra 5th Wheel, 36' with Superslide, on full hook-up site near Victoria, Illinois, \$4800 OBO, 309-267-6313

Gazelle Exercise Machine, folds for storage, like new \$75, 309-692-7146

Whole Boat Package, Lowe 14' Semi-V, EXL-Trailer, 6hp Johnson, troller, battery case, gas tank, trailer lock, \$2800, 309-251-6022

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale Walnut Lumber, 309-383-4939

Snapper Snow Blower, \$50, 309-347-3849

For Sale 2007 Doolittle 6x12 Enclosed Trailer, several options, 309-753-8654 after 6:00 p.m.

Coors Pool Table Light, EC, \$40, 309-676-5409

4 Cemetery Lots, Parkview Cemetery Garden of Memories, Lots 285, \$1200 for all 4, 309-694-3905

REAL ESTATE

Mobile Home Waterfront Rental Lot, boat dock, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, many upgrades, East Peoria, \$16000, 309-363-6221

20 Acres, 2 ponds, deep well, small barn, hunt, fish or build, located Couch, MD, \$29,900, 417-938-4798

Florida, 2 bedroom Trailer for vacations and snowbirds in Estero near Gulf beaches, 309-256-8784

Peoria Home, 2-3 bedroom, aluminum sided, A/C, BBQ pit, fenced yard, 3 season porch, basement, move in condition, appointment, \$59,900, 309-692-4136

SERVICES

Haul away for free, appliances, water heaters, furnaces, air conditions, cars, trucks anything metal, 309-369-8014

Termite and Pest Control Services, union discounts, termites, spiders, lady bugs, ants, and others, 309-267-7378

Guitar repairs, set-ups and custom work, also several new professionally playable acoustic, electrical guitar accessories, 309-243-9459

Electrical Heating A/C Repairs, Installation, insured Metamora, Germantown Hills area, reasonable rates, Lee DeBolt, 309-253-7528

Pam's Paper and Painting, est. 1990, free estimates, Pam Hrdlicka, 309-699-0057

WANTED

Get that old gun out of the closet, you'll never shoot it, call 309-224-6663

Need hood, grill, headlights for '99 Dodge van, also windshield, leave message, price not too high, 309-469-4141

Wanted used guns, any condition, also military items, 309-256-8257

OPPORTUNITY

Firewood, selected hardwood, Hedge Apple trees, standing, fallen, for taking easily, accessible in Peoria, Creve Coeur, 309-264-4097

Local 974 News – Classified Ads

LIMIT 15 WORDS PER AD – ONE (1) AD PER ISSUE – DEADLINE: 1ST OF THE MONTH

Ads should be submitted to Insurance and Benefits Office, Jim Arrowood, UAW Local 974, 3025 Springfield Road, East Peoria, IL 61611-4801. No ads will be accepted on the telephone.

Ads will be accepted ONLY when they are submitted on this form.

Name _____ Badge No. _____

Address _____ City _____

Phone Number with Area Code (_____) _____

PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF AD:

Automotive Clothing Household Goods Lost and Found Miscellaneous Pets
 Opportunity Real Estate Rentals Services Sporting Goods Wanted

ONE WORD PER SPACE ONLY!!



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