



THE SPOTLIGHT

December 2001 • USWA - LOCAL 286 • 5724 Seward, Lincoln, NE 68507 • (402) 434-2970
 www."nebraska.com/~uswa286 • Ucinda Sims — Editor • Hugh Bowen — President

Peace on Earth and Goodwill towards men is much more than just an empty holiday wish this year. Events of the last few months have given us all cause to pause and remember the gifts we receive all year long. Life, liberty, freedom and safety. And that includes safety at work. As we remember all the workers and union members who lost their lives or were seriously injured in the attacks of September 11th, while doing their jobs, we offer our sympathy and support to their families during this Holiday Season. We wish all of you and your families the very best whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or simply a New Year. Please celebrate safely. Enjoy the Season!

The Officers and Staff of USWA Local 286

Hugh Bowen, President

John Shotkoski, Vice President

Sally Edwards, Recording Secretary

Mo Anker, Treasurer

Andy Grow, Financial Secretary

Barb Giles, Office Secretary

The December winner of the Nebraska State AFL-CIO Calendar raffle from Local 286 is Dar Seeba.

During 2001, 40 of our members won money from all four categories; \$25, \$50, \$100 & \$500.

Congratulations to all of you. And thanks to all of our members who purchased calendars to help with the Nebraska State AFL-CIO Scholarship program. Next month we will begin again listing the monthly winners from our Local 286 for 2002.

NEXT UNION MEETING

**January 13th, 2002
 2:00 P.M.
 Union Hall, 5724
 Seward**



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hugh Bowen

I trust that everyone who had an opportunity to see the three-page, unsigned letter floating around the plant, took it for what it was worth. I hope that you all realized that none of it was true. I was going to comment on some of the misinformation it contained but

decided not to at this time. At least not unless I see more of them in the future. I will say that I am sure the company really likes to see letters like the one that is out there now.

We are and will continue trying to do what we can to save as many jobs as possible in our plant. It is too bad that there are some who feel we are not doing anything about the loss of local jobs.

I am sure that by now everyone knows that Mr. Horn is leaving Goodyear Lincoln along with Rose Williams. Our new HR Manager, Bob Lindsay, will be here sometime after the first of the year. It is my hope that things will begin to change here in Lincoln and change for the better. We can all hope for a positive turnaround here in our plant.

We have a lot of our members being laid off right now. There really is no good time to be laid off, but this time of year is especially difficult. On the sub report of 12-4-01, it showed that 162 people were in their waiting week. They will be added to the sub-report now as well as some of the plants that are planning holiday shut-downs. Their impact to the subfund will be in the very near future.

The sub fund is still below 10% so we receive a report every week. The sub fund as of 12-11-01 is at 7.84%.

A big thank you to Gary Schaefer, Allison Potter and the Entertainment Committee for another great Children's Christmas Party. As you know, Gary Schaefer has stepped down as chairman of the Entertainment Committee. I am looking for 2 or 3 more members for this committee as well as a new chairman. If anyone is interested in joining this committee or taking on the responsibility of chairman of this committee, please indicate your interest in writing and bring it in to me. Even if you have previously indicated that you would be interested, I would appreciate you putting it in writing and getting it to me.

I would like to remind everyone to celebrate the holidays safely. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2002 Union Plus Scholarship Program Applications Available

More Than \$1.5 Million Awarded Since 1992

Applications for the 2002 Union Plus Scholarship Program are now available. Currently in its 11th year, the program has awarded over \$1.5 million to union members and members of their families who want to begin or continue their secondary education.

Last year, 115 students, representing 31 AFL-CIO unions, received \$151,000 in scholarships. The program's top \$4,000 awards went to 12 students, while 79 students attending four-year institutions received awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. Twenty-four students attending community colleges and trade schools will receive scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,000.

Eligibility: Members, their spouses and dependent children (as defined under IRS regulations; includes foster children, step children and any other child for whom the member provides greater than 50 percent of their support) of unions participating in the Union Plus Credit Card program may apply. Having a Union Plus Credit Card is not a requirement. One year of continuous good standing union membership is required at the time of the award. The individual must be accepted into an accredited college or university, community college or recognized technical or trade school at the time the award is issued. Graduate students are not eligible.

Scholarship amount: The amount of the award ranges between \$500 and \$4,000. This is a one-time cash award sent to individual winners for undergraduate study beginning in the fall of the same year.

Deadline: Applications for the 2002 awards must be post-marked no later than January 31, 2002 to be considered. Return the form to the post office box noted on the application. If you'd like to receive confirmation of your application's receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped postcard with your application. The postcard will be returned to you once the application is received.

When are winners announced? Letters will be sent to winners on May 31, 2002. Due to the volume of applications, only winners will be notified.

Applications are available at the Union Hall or by going to www.unionprivilege.org

If you have not received your letter and W1099 form from the offices of Solomon, Smith & Barney, in regards to your negotiated stock options, please do not wait for it to come. As usual, the promised letters have only arrived to a few and the rest are nowhere to be found. Please pick up a form from the employment office or from my office at the Union Hall. You can fill it out and have Teresa, from the employment office, send it in with the others.

Sally Edwards
Pension and Insurance Representative

IN THE EDITOR'S OPINION

Ucinda Sims

As the year winds down and we all frantically prepare for holiday celebrations with family and friends, we find ourselves overwhelmed with questions and worries about our jobs. Exactly how many people will get laid off? Will the company we work for continue to send our work to outside contractors or south of the border or even north of the border? Will their desperate attempt to keep the Mexican plants running be continued just to save money? Will quality and customer satisfaction be sacrificed to prevent the reported shutdown costs in Mexico?

And the list goes on. It would be so easy to allow ourselves to

be bogged down with unanswered questions. Worry and stress make it hard to enjoy even the jolliest of holidays. Our elected representatives will continue to work on solutions and have not given up. So we must not give up either. We must continue to work, play and enjoy. We must continue to give our support to each other and our leaders. We must continue to stick together. Solidarity is a word you hear frequently, but we know what it means. Remember that we taught them what it means. We must continue to look for better ways to do our jobs. Most importantly, we must continue to ask these questions. We will prepare to start out the new year with a running start. And in the end, when we win, we ALL win.

Now go and have yourself the merriest Christmas and the happiest holidays ever.

CEO PayWatch

In 2000, Samir G. Gibara, Chairman CEO of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, raked in \$4,176,691 in total compensation from the company. You would have to work at today's current wages for 108 years to equal Sam's compensation for the year 2000.

And you could never retire! You couldn't take a vacation until 2109.

Holiday Helping Hands

The Folsom Children's Zoo sent a thank you for all our help during 'Boo at the Zoo'. The cost of helping out at functions like these and helping with the playground fix-up at the Northeast Family Resource Center is one of the reasons that we are selling the window/bumper stickers. The money donated each year by the 5 unions that help is not enough to cover expenses. Please see me to purchase a "Support America, Buy American" sticker.

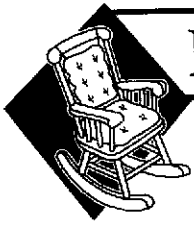
I would like to thank everyone who helped to ring bells for the Salvation Army on December 8th.

Gary Floyd	Joyce Warner	Mike Laver & family
Hugh & Sharon Bowen	Mark Kumpula & Molly Kumpula	Carletta White
Julie Tlamka	Evelyn Pritchett & family	Sue Statler & Chris
John Dove & family	Larry & Shirley Foster	John Will
Phil Snook	Brian Sheridan & Courtney Sheridan	Annette Luebbe & family
Jerry Teichmeier		

We are looking for volunteers to help out one more time before the holidays. On December 20th, 21st and 22nd, we will be helping the Lincoln Action Program distribute the donated toys and gifts. Let me know if you can help. Remember to drop off your extra mittens in the boxes by each entrance.

Thank you to each and every one of you who has helped us during the year. I wish everyone the happiest holidays.

Milt Schmidt
Chairman, Community Services Committee



Retiree's Corner

Next Retiree's Club Meeting January 14, 2002

Retiree's meeting will be a ham and bean soup supper at 5:30 pm. The club will furnish the soup, members to bring side dishes and your own soup bowl.

COMING BUS TRIPS:

- Royal River Casino bus trip Jan. 24-25th. \$39 per person, double - \$20 back from casino. Continental Breakfast and buffet dinners.
- Mesquaquee Casino trip Feb. 4-5th. \$49 each - \$40 back from casino, \$6 food coupon.
- Branson, Mo. bus trip April 16 thru 19th. 4 days, \$399.

Any one interested in these trips call Marge Lahodny, 466-0737.

The following is an excerpt from a letter to Ron Hoover, Goodyear coordinator for the USWA.

Dear Ron Hoover,

I would like to thank you and the Steel Workers Union for not trashing the Goodyear Retiree's of the Los Angeles California plant which closed in 1980.

The checks negotiated for the pensioner's were super helpful to us with our raising energy bill's, etc. All of the other things that were added also are beneficial to all. I say thank you all.

Ron, most of our retirees are sending their prescriptions in to the Goodyear mail order service. They are in the know of how much prescriptions cost. I want to thank the members who paid our share out of the COLA. Thank each one of them. I was a small part of COLA as president of Local 131. I can recall when COLA was put in the Goodyear agreement. The Union is the only thing most of us at Goodyear has left and TRUST. When I am at any meetings I will always stand for the Steel Workers Union".

I wear my Steel Worker Union pin. I will always be a Union guy, and will help who ever I can as long as I live. I TRUST OUR UNION.

John Morehouse
Goodyear Retiree Local 131
Bellflower, California

FAST TRACK SQUEAKS THROUGH HOUSE

Working families flooded Capitol Hill offices with phone calls, e-mails and faxes urging defeat of Fast Track, but well-heeled business lobbyists and strong-armed Republican leaders managed to capture the one extra vote needed to pass the trade scheme Dec. 6.

The 215-214 vote means the flawed trade legislation, which President George W. Bush has desperately sought since taking office, moves to the Senate, where a vote is not likely until next year.

"Today we saw the House leadership hit a historic low in bowing to their billion dollar corporate backers. The Republican leaders and the Bush administration capped a year of punishment for working families with one last disgraceful vote before the end of the legislative session," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

"They began the year by rolling back hard-won worker protections. They continued their attacks with a shameful "worker relief" package that not only fails to provide relief to unemployed workers or stimulate our sputtering economy but shamefully lavishes tax rebates on profitable corporations. Now they have elected to end the year with a flawed trade measure that will cost more working Americans their jobs," he said.

Fast Track grants the president the authority to negotiate trade deals and forbids Congress any opportunity to correct flaws or problems, including lack of worker or environmental rights. Opponents say Fast Track would aid powerful corporations searching the globe for cheap labor-lowering standards globally for workers' rights, public health, consumers and the environment.

GOP leaders made some cosmetic changes in Fast Track's labor and environmental provisions. But those changes were "too little and too late! American laws on labor and the environment cannot be ignored for mere corporate gain," said Teamster General President James P. Hoffa.

In the days before the vote working families and their unions lobbied hard to defeat the bill. The AFL-CIO sponsored a national call-in day Dec. 4 that generated toll-free calls to House members. And at the AFL-CIO Convention, delegates used specially provided computers, faxes and cellular phones to contact their lawmakers and urge them to vote against the trade deal.

UAW took out full-page ads in several major newspapers that noted that "Instead of taking action to help laid-off workers the White House and Republican congressional leaders are pushing divisive Fast Track trade legislation." The AFL-CIO also sponsored a series of television ads urging defeat of the legislation.