

THE SPOTLIGHT

5724 Seward, Lincoln, NE 68507 • (402) 434-2970 • www."nebraska.com/~uswa286

**JANUARY
2002**

Steelworkers Pitch Tent City for Justice

The first winners of the 2002 Nebraska State AFL-CIO Calendar Raffle from Local 286 are:

**Steve Braunsroth
Cindy Scharton**

Congratulations to both of you.

Nearly 400 steelworkers and their supporters erected "Camp Solidarity" at the National Labor College of the George Meany Center for Labor Studies just outside Washington, D.C., as a staging ground for their lobbying campaign to save steel jobs. More arrived in buses and cars from five states to pitch tents for their stay in the capital and attended a Dec. 14 rally.

"We cannot afford to put the future of our 7,000 active steelworkers and 60,000 pensioners at risk by denying them support from their government," says Steelworkers President Leo W. Gerard. With the message, "Let's Make Steel," the active and retired USWA members and their families are asking Congress and the Bush administration for an emergency federal loan guarantee for LTV Steel Company Inc., which has idled its facilities and put most of the 7,500 workers on layoff status amid bankruptcy proceedings. A company shutdown also would threaten the health care benefits paid to 60,000 retirees and surviving spouses.

LTV's troubles are part of the larger crisis in the U.S. steel industry, which has been suffering for four years, since the illegal dumping of foreign steel intensified as the economies of Asian countries faltered. Since the crisis began, more than 30,000 steelworkers have lost their jobs, 29 steel companies have gone bankrupt and 12 modern and efficient steel plants have been shut down permanently.

The U.S. International Trade Commission recently ruled that the American steel industry has been injured seriously by repeated import surges. Now, the Bush administration must decide what remedies to implement in response to the ITC ruling. A variety of remedy recommendations—tariffs, quotas, tariff-rate quotas—were made by the six ITC

commissioners.

"We have one goal: Let's make steel," says Dave McCall, director of USWA District 1, representing 80,000 members in Ohio. "There is a two-week window until the bankruptcy judge rules, and so Congress must act now to convince the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Board that indeed we have an emergency and we must get the loan guarantee now." The steelworkers seek an emergency federal loan guarantee to help keep the bankrupt LTV Steel Co. going and save 7,500 jobs. USWA leaders are asking supporters to call or e-mail their members of Congress and ask them to urge Commerce Secretary Donald L. Evans and the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Board to guarantee the loan.

February 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Next Regular Membership Meeting

**February 10th at 2:00 pm
Union Hall • 5724 Seward**

**Ucinda Sims, Editor
Hugh Bowen, President**



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hugh Bowen

It has been brought to our attention that there were some problems with surplus labor on December 9th. Apparently some individuals did not understand which option to take for layoff. I would like to remind everyone that if you do not know which option to

take please stop by the Union Hall and one of us will explain all the different options and what they mean and how they work. Once you take an option, that is what you have. Some options can be changed and some can not. Make sure you know which option you really want and works best for you.

I am still waiting for written requests to become a member of the Entertainment Committee. I have received only one request so far. I know that I had two or three of you inquire about joining this committee, but I need your request in writing.

Also, we have a new committee - Women of Steel. Anyone interested in being on this committee needs to also submit their request in writing to me. We will need at least three members, but not more than nine on this committee.

In response to your requests, here is a quick refresher about the stock options. If you were included in Grant 1, all of your stock options are locked in at \$17.68 per share and will not change. If you are in Grant 2, you are locked in at \$25.03 per share and that price will not change. The three year timetable to get 100% of your shares, if you are in Grant 1, goes like this. You are vested for 50% of your shares as of December 5th, 2001. Then you are locked in to 25% more of your shares as of January 5th, 2002, then vested for those shares as of December 5th, 2002. Your last 25% of your shares will be locked in as of January 5th, 2003 and vested on December 5th, 2003. If you retire after January 5th, 2002, you will be vested right away for your 25%. If you retire after January 5th, 2003, you will be vested at that time for your last 25%. The timetable for Grant 2 is similar but begins in September, 2001.

I do have a grievance filed that hopefully should go to arbitration in a few months. Just to remind you, the grievance is about having to "re-qualify" each year to get your 25% in 2002 and 2003 which is not what we agreed to in Master negotiations. If someone still does not understand about these stock options, I will be happy to sit down and go through them with you.

I have had a lot of calls about selling options. It is up to each person when and how many options a person wants to sell. I would still suggest, however, that you hold on to your options until the price goes up enough to make some money on them.

I know you are all wondering about the sub fund. We have also wondered and have asked questions and have requested that the information be explained. At this time, it is very unstable and impossible to predict. We will continue to ask questions and keep you informed.

Steward classes will be held on January 18th, 21st and 25th. We look forward to seeing all the stewards then.

BUSHwacked

President Bush bypassed Congress to appoint Eugene Scalia — an extreme opponent of worker protections — as the Labor Department's top lawyer.

- Refused to accept court ruling overturning anti-worker executive order;
- Bush administration lays groundwork for closing Women's Bureau regional offices;
- Bush's allies continue push to privatize Social Security;
- Repealed federal contractor rule that scrutinized corporate lawbreakers during competition for government contracts;
- Banned mechanics at United Airlines from exercising their right to strike;
- Stopped Department of Labor action on almost 30 job safety initiatives;
- Implemented government regulation to allow federal agents to eavesdrop on lawyer-client conversations;
- Proposed taking \$11 billion from children's health insurance as part of the economic stimulus package.

This years gift give-away program by the Lincoln Action Program was another huge success. They did run low on gifts for teens, but the overall success of the program was once again the volunteers that helped to make it happen. I would like to thank the following committee members, family members and Local 286 members and retirees for volunteering their time to help.

Retirees Irene Middleton and Jared Teichmeier, Mike Statler, Erin Statler, Abby Statler, Mark Kumpula, Molly Kumpula, Gary Floyd, Kay Floyd, Phil Snook, Evelyn Pritchett, Sue Statler, Sharon Bowen, Rod and Krista Braunsroth and John Bell.

As we begin a new year we are going to be helping out at Abe Lincoln Day on February 10th and at the Swap Meet on March 10th. If you would like more information about these volunteering opportunities, please come and see me.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year
Milt Schmidt
Chairman, Community Services Committee

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IN THE EDITOR'S OPINION

Ucinda Sims

being the world's largest textile maker to filing for bankruptcy protection announced plans to cut 4,000 jobs and close or sell five plants in Mexico and the United States.

And that was all just last week.

Twenty nine Steel Companies have filed for bankruptcy. The tourism industry has suffered massive reductions in business since the attacks on September 11. The airline industry continues to cut and downsize and layoff and go out of business. (They call it "furloughed" and the airline employees have been singled out by Goodyear to be recruited for positions they have open. See job opportunities at goodyear.com)

Recent news reports about the devastation to Washington State because of the closing of Boeing, a major manufacture of airplanes, pointed out the problem of a state being dependent on a few major employers. Nebraska was cited as one of those places. That would be us. We are one of the major employers in our state. Even though we are not the biggest, we still count.

This position brings with it an increased responsibility to continue our battle to improve the working conditions of workers in our

Just this last week Ford Motor Co announced that it plans to cut 35,000 jobs. Merrill Lynch said it eliminated 9,000 jobs this last year. CIGNA Corporation is laying off 2,000 workers and Burlington Industries, which has gone from

state. We have always gone to battle for legislative improvements that would enhance the day to day lives of the men and women who work for a living. Many improvements and benefits at workplaces, union and non-union alike, can be directly attributed to the work we do. Of course the most obvious non-union recipient of our ability to make gains through collective bargaining would be the non-union Goodyear plant in Norfolk, Nebraska. But other employers, actually almost all employers, offer some level of benefits and wages because they have been negotiated and won for members of unions at other companies and businesses. Our wages and benefits automatically raise the standard in our community and our efforts and contributions lead the way in community services and programs that provide services to the less fortunate.

In the future we will only know that we can count on our elected officials to provide support for our continued employment here if we continue to elect friends of the working families of our city, counties and our state. It is more important than ever that we do whatever it takes to insure that every mayor, city council member, county official, legislator and even the governor is someone that takes seriously the importance to our state the continuance of our company here.

Things look bleak here, but it is obviously bleak all over. It would be so easy to throw up our hands in despair, but we cannot and we will not give up. In solidarity we will continue our fight.

Together.

2002 Union-Industries Show Salutes 'America's Heroes': AFL-CIO's Working Families

The 2002 Union-Industries Show in Minneapolis next Spring will be "A Salute to America's Heroes: the Working Families of the AFL-CIO". The 2002 theme celebrates "both the day-to-day contributions that working families make to the welfare of our economy by producing the best products and services on earth, as well as the special efforts that we have all been making every day in the new atmosphere that confronts us since 9/11," declared Union Label and Service Trades Department President Charles Mercer.

The Show will officially open at noon., Friday April 5, running through 7 p.m., Monday, April 8.

"The newly expanded Minneapolis Convention Center offers a terrific venue for the displays of the 400-plus exhibitors," said Dennis Kivikko, show manager and Secretary-Treasurer of the UL&STD.

Progress Through Cooperation

That's the idea behind the AFL-CIO Union Industries Show that features and promotes union-made American products and union services.

The show highlights the skills and services of union workers throughout American industries. Exhibitors include the AFL-CIO national and international unions, corporations whose products and services are produced by union workers, government agencies, and

community service organizations.

The aim of the show is to give the public a "behind the scenes" look at the men and women of organized labor in action, and to demonstrate the many ways labor and management work together for their mutual benefit.

The AFL-CIO Union Industries Show is an "open house," giving visitors, especially young adults, a unique opportunity to see hundreds of exhibits and live demonstrations. The displays feature the latest technology and union craftsmanship.

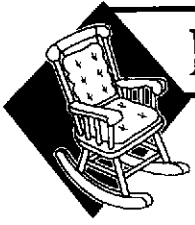
Skilled union workers explain the jobs they perform while answering questions from visitors.

Many exhibitors offer free product samples and prizes. And best of all, admission is free!

The general public is invited to this admission free exhibition. The AFL-CIO Union Industries Show offers a special welcome to schools, clubs, and other organizations that may want to arrange group visits. Children must be accompanied by an adult, and school groups must have adult supervision.

The AFL-CIO Union Industries Show presents demonstrations and exhibits of modern technology, aerospace science, culinary skills, energy conservation, personal health, the theatrical arts, and special skills in industries such as textiles, printing, glassblowing, construction, and much more.





Retiree's Corner

Attention Retirees

We will be taking up your 2002 Retirement Club Membership dues of \$4.00. They are due by the 1st of March. You may pay Barb at the Union Hall or send payment to:

James Landstrom, 6300 Madison, Lincoln, NE 68507

The February 11th, Retirees Meeting will be a Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm. Bring a covered dish and own table service. The January meeting started with a Ham & Bean Soup Supper with 64 members present. Door prizes were won by Gladys Svoboda and Flo Chapin. We were entertained by the Lincoln Lutheran Swing Choir after the business meeting.

Is college in your child's future?

Today's college tuition can be a major financial burden for most families. We have listed below three different scholarship opportunities that your student can apply for. It is especially important to make note of the deadline dates.

Building A Strong Future

The credit union believes in helping members achieve their goal of higher education and to build a strong future! Acting on what the credit union believes, the Lincoln Goodyear Employees FCU, in cooperation with the Lincoln Chapter of Credit Unions, is sponsoring the "**Credit Unions for Higher Education Scholarship Contest.**"

This scholarship contest is open to credit union members who are high school seniors, and college or trade school students who will be either full or part-time students for the 2002/2003 academic year. To enter, participants must submit an essay explaining "how credit unions demonstrate the "people helping people" philosophy" in 500 words or less. The scholarship contest will recognize the top three contestants with all scholarships to be made payable to the school on behalf of the winner.

Contact or visit your credit union for a copy of scholarship rules, guidelines, and instructions. Entries must be postmarked or received by June 1, 2002.

Your credit union is proud to offer the "Credit Unions for Higher Education Scholarship" to members. Our members and their futures come first. Good luck to all contestants!

2002 Union Plus Scholarship Program 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.

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

Nebraska State AFL-CIO Scholarship Program

The Nebraska State AFL-CIO offers six annual scholarships of \$500 each. One scholarship will be awarded in each of the six central labor councils geographic areas in the state of Nebraska. Members and/or dependents of members of Nebraska State AFL-CIO affiliated local unions are eligible to apply for these scholarships. The award can be used at any accredited college or university, public community college or established trade school. The following must be submitted with the application in order to be considered for the scholarship:

1. A 750 (minimum) word essay as follows:
 - a. Is There a Working Class in the United States Today? - If there is a working class who is in it and who is not; or, if there is not a working class what happened to it.
 - b. The essay must be typewritten, double spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 white paper.
2. A statement of career goal or intent.

Winners will be announced May 1, 2002 by the Nebraska State AFL-CIO.

The application **MUST BE RETURNED TO THE NEBRASKA STATE AFL-CIO OFFICE BY MARCH 15, 2002.**
Applications are available at the Union Hall.