

THE SPOTLIGHT

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

**APRIL
2002**

Congratulations
to the April
winners from
Local 286 in
the Nebraska
State AFL-CIO.

Mike Matulka
Dan Hahn
Mary Simonsen

Please note this
is one week
earlier than
normal because
of Mothers Day.

Ucinda Sims, Editor
Hugh Bowen, President



APRIL 28TH, 2002

Workers Memorial Day

Decades of struggle by workers and their unions have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. Unions have won laws and protections - such as the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the federal Mine Safety and Health Act - that have made workplaces safer for all workers. Union contracts have given workers a voice on the job. Nonetheless, the toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths remain enormous. Millions of workers are killed or injured every year. Just days after the September 11th attacks, the worst mine disaster in more than a decade killed 13 miners.

On this Workers Memorial Day, as we remember those who lost their lives on September 11 and all those killed, injured and diseased on the job, workers will organize and mobilize for better working conditions. We will demand a strong ergonomics standard, stronger enforcement of the law and protections from known workplace hazards and from new safety and security threats.

We will demand OSHA coverage for all workers and the freedom of workers to organize and, through their unions, speak out and bargain for safe jobs, respect and a better future.

Honor those who have lost their lives, been injured and diseased on the job by joining other Nebraska Union members at the Nebraska State AFL-CIO Pancake Breakfast on

Sunday, April 28, 2002.

8:00 A.M. - Noon — Cost is \$3 per person or \$10 per family
Nebraska State AFL-CIO Building, 5418 South 27th Street, Omaha, Nebraska
Speakers will be presented at approximately 10:00 A.M.

33 American steelmakers have filed for bankrupt since 1998.

17 of them have already liquidated, wiping out over 48,000 jobs and the health care benefits of more than 100,000 steelworker retirees.

Every major integrated steel producer in the U.S. continues to bleed red ink.

Unless Congress passes legislation to protect Steelworker retirees and their surviving spouses, more than half a million of them will lose their health care benefits at the most vulnerable time of their lives.

CALL YOUR CONGRESSMAN TODAY!

1.877.611.0063 TOLL FREE
Urge Strong Support For The Steel Industry
Retiree Benefits Protection Act

May 2002

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	NEXT REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING May 5th @ 2:00 pm Union Hall 5724 Seward				
19	20					
26	27					

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hugh Bowen

I would just like to give everyone a recap on the situation with the potential of taking jobs out of Lincoln.

The company started last year by wanting to reopen the agreement and talk about hose final jobs. At the end of those discussions and negotiations, the company said we were too far apart and the hose final jobs would be moving elsewhere. Then, before we even had a chance to discuss the rest of the hose department, in January of this year the company announced that they were taking the entire hose department out of Lincoln.

Then International Vice President Dick Davis told the company that he was meeting with Goodyear CEO, Sam Gibara on February 11, 2002. After that meeting, the company indicated that they would once again be willing to sit down and discuss this situation with the union, but refused to make any promises.

We are now in that phase of this process. As of this letter, we have not been able to agree on anything yet.

Ron Hoover and Terral Smith from the International have

been here working with our bargaining committee to try and come up with a package to give to Akron. Both Hoover and Smith are now back in Pittsburgh, because some of the company's team could not meet the week of April 15th. We should be meeting with the company again within the next week or two.

Once again I would like to remind everyone that if in the case of an tentative agreement, there are any changes involving the master agreement, those changes would have to be approved by the International Policy Committee and then voted on by all the locals covered by the master agreement and passed by a majority of the majority before any changes could be implemented.

If and when there is an actual agreement reached, we will let you know.

Please note that the May union meeting is one week earlier than usual because of Mothers Day. The meeting will be on the 5th of May at 2:00 p.m.

We have a lot of new COPE gifts that may come in handy for gift giving on Mothers or Fathers Day. Check out the list below.

The sub fund continues to be erratic and unpredictable. Updates are available at extension 8821 in the plant.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 26, 2002 - Deadline for Mail-In Registration to VOTE for primary election

May 3, 2002 - Deadline for In-Person Registration to VOTE for primary election

May 10, 2002 - Last day for absentee Voters to Request ballots for primary election

MAY 14, 2002 - PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Absentee ballot request forms are available at the Union Hall.

Have you checked out the selection of COPE gifts available at the Union Hall lately? You may surprised to know that we have a variety of gifts that can be purchased with your COPE dollars or by cash.

We have the usual variety of shirts, caps and jackets. We also have Women of Steel t-shirts and sweat shirts. In addition to these clothes items you can also get a variety of gifts that you just might want to consider as Mothers Day and Fathers Day come up. Or any occasion you may need a gift. Here are some of the items you could choose from.

Record portfolio
Tape measure
Pocket knife
belt buckle

daily planner
money clip
Mag flashlights
Cross pen and pencil set

billfolds
lighter
golf towel
tool sets

Valentino gift certificates
Misty's gift certificates
Buck knives
USWA watches

Come by and see us today.



IN THE EDITOR'S OPINION

Ucinda Sims

On March 26th, 2002, 66 people in Kearney, Nebraska made a decision that will affect their lives and their futures. For reasons that we may never know, these 66 people decided that they no longer needed their rights in their workplace, rights that included seniority, job classifications, overtime and benefits. They decided that in this "right to work or right to be fired" state, that they no longer needed protection from random terminations and or harassment on the job. They felt comfortable with the knowledge that within weeks they would receive a pay decrease, along with increased costs for any medical benefits. They decided that their lives would be better with mandatory overtime or mandatory short weeks, depending on the companies mood that week. They chose to not get their earned vacation benefits when they need them, but to just take what the company would give them. They chose to be at the mercy of management favoritism. These 66 people made decisions that would change their lives and the lives of all the employees at the West Corporation in Kearney, Nebraska. On March 26th, these 66 people killed USWA Local

815. Their votes lost a decertification vote and their votes lost so much more.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the employees in Kearney. The road they have created for themselves will not be easy. And they have forced the remaining employees who voted to keep their union to travel the same road. I am sure that it is with heavy hearts that the believers in a fair and safe workplace now rise each day and go to work in a facility that is and will be changed forever. Not only do we keep those believers in our thoughts, but those 66 non-believers as well. We know that they could not have possibly understood the ramifications of their decisions. When the dust settles and the realization of the outcome of their actions sets in, they too will find out that they needed the support and guidance of the union they so easily discarded.

Local 815 was the only other URW local in our state when we merged with the United Steelworkers. The death of this local should be mourned by all of us. And, in memory of their valiant fight to stay alive, we should keep up our own fight. Always fighting for what is right. For what is right for all workers.

Just in time for summer . . .

We are now looking for a few good volunteers. We have a summer full of activities that will need many helping hands and those hands could be yours.

The calendar of events begins with the Havelock Street Dance on June 8th. Then there will be the Hay Market Hey Days June 14th through 16th. This will be followed by July Jamm and the state fair. And we always need help with the bike path each month.

Let me know if you can help with any or all of these activities. Rumor has it that everyone who helps has a great time, so help us make it a great time for everybody.

Thank you, Milt Schmidt, Chairman, Community Services Committee

Protect Your Health and Welfare

Few health insurance policies cover the cost of long-term care. Consequently, income, property and investments are often needed to pay health care expenses.

A primary benefit of adequate preparation is freedom from financial hardship. Consider attending a FREE seminar on Long Term Care, sponsored by the Lincoln Goodyear Employees FCU and Members Financial Services Program, to learn more.

Attend one of the two scheduled seminars on Thursday, May 9, 2002. The first seminar will be from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and the second seminar will be from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The seminars will be held at eh Lincoln Goodyear Employees FCU main facility located at 4638 W Street.

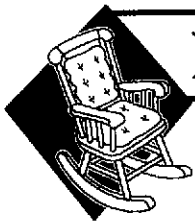
Contact the credit union at 441-3555 to make your reservations by May 6th.

Other upcoming informational seminars in the 2002 Financial Education Series include:

June 25, 2002
Car Buying/Leasing Seminar

August 20, 2002
Car Buying/Leasing Seminar

October 2002
College Bound -
Financial Experience



Retiree's Corner

RETIREES MEETING, May 13th, 2002

The May Meeting will be our annual chicken dinner to be held at the Havelock Methodist Church, 4140 North 60th St. at 5:30 p.m. Everything will be furnished.

The cost is \$2.50 per person. You must have your 2002 dues of \$4.00 paid to attend this dinner. Purchase tickets by May 9th.

See Marv Tenopir or Barb at the Union Office for tickets.

This will be the last meeting until September, so come and visit with your friends and fellow Goodyear retirees.

The April Meeting started at 5:30 with a potluck dinner. The regular meeting started at 6:30. \$5 door prizes were won by Rich Hosek and Paula Hanneman. We were entertained by the Capital City Kloggers.

The report on election of Retiree Club Officers in the March Spotlight was incorrect. They should have read as follows:

Executive board	Beverly Litt Martin Maul Marvin Tenopir
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Trustees	Roy Valentine Hubert Chapin Leon Lahodny
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There are still a few seats available on the bus to Royal River Casino on May 15th and 16th.

The cost is \$39 per person based on double occupancy. This cost includes \$20 back from the casino and 2 free meals. The bus will leave from the Airport Inn at 6:00 a.m..

Call Marge Lahodny for information and reservations.

Mothers Day

IS MAY 12TH

The Union Plus Flower Service offers a variety of flowers, plants and gift baskets at members-only prices. Members can have flowers delivered anywhere in the world, satisfaction guaranteed.

Special offers include:

- 15% discount per order (minimum order \$34.99)
- Unconditional 100% satisfaction guarantee
- Additional savings for online orders (\$2.00 off service and transmission fee)
- Wide selection of expertly designed floral arrangements, green and blooming plants, wreaths and gift baskets
- Same-day service (if ordered before noon in recipients time zone)
- International service (with three-day delivery guarantee)
- A "talking bouquet" option, which offers access to a toll-free 800 number message

Browse flower arrangements and purchase online at unionprivilege.com/benefits/gift/
Or call and order at 888-667-7779