



## Sisters & Brothers of Local 1055L

Recently I was talking with a retired Charter Member of Local 1055L about the hopes and direction of our Union. As we talked further, the pride and emotion of what was accomplished in the conception of Local 1055L came pouring out and was very humbling for me.

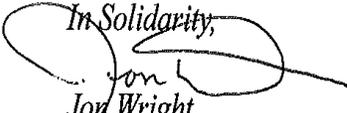
No matter where you stand today in the plant there once was a member who walked out and picketed for recognition of our Union and then within a short time frame walked out again and picketed to demand a fair contract putting their jobs and their families livelihood on the line.

Nothing was given to these members, they fought for everything that we have as well as some things we have lost in negotiations. There were sacrifices that were paid by so many, that should never get far from our hearts and minds. As President and prideful member of USW Local 1055L, I proclaim this is **“our time”** to uphold the honorable past and let the sound of **“Unity and Solidarity”** echo so loudly it cannot and will not be ignored.

Together **WE** will prevail in obtaining a fair contract with equality, adequate wages and benefits. As July 27<sup>th</sup> 2013 approaches so does the dead line to return the investments to **“ALL”** members and bring an end to the Contractual and Financial division that the company has placed on our membership

**“WE WILL NOT BACK UP NOR WILL WE BACKDOWN!”**

# “They Can’t Do That”

*In Solidarity,*  
  
Joy Wright  
USW President Local 1055L

### Vice –President

As you all know by now Tom Jacobs did win his arbitration case and will receive 10 months of back pay. A few days after Tom’s ruling the company offered Jerry Mattern’s job back with back pay also. This was accomplished by hard work from our union and some of the people that need to be recognized are Jeff Taylor, Alan Willard, Harry Magarity, Jackie Helton, and Bill Johnson.

The next subject that we need to address is the fact that our contract will expire July 27 2013. Now is the time to prepare for what lies ahead. By preparing I mean start putting some money back, double up on house notes, car notes and any other bills if at all possible.

For those of you who have been on strike you know it can be tough and for those of you who have not now is the time to start asking some of the older hands what you can do to get ready for this. We have given up enough as workers for Bridgestone it is now time for this company to invest in its workforce.

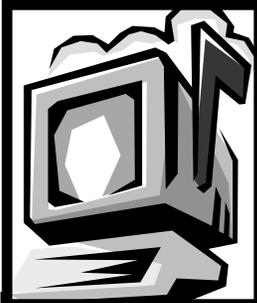
If you are having a problem you need addressed please feel free to call on anyone of us. You need to remember that this is your Union Hall and we are here to represent you to the best of our ability. We cannot try to fix a problem if we are not made aware of it to start with.

*In Solidarity,  
J. P. Wall  
Vice President*



### Officer/Rep. Contacts

<b>President Jon Wright</b>	<b>415-2811</b>	<b>Vice-President J.P. Wall</b>	<b>556-9931</b>
<b>Rec. Sec. Scott Landsdown</b>	<b>556-9930</b>	<b>Fin. Sec. Rodney Phillips</b>	<b>631-5376</b>
<b>Treas. Terry Majors</b>	<b>887-3582</b>	<b>P&amp;I Rep. John Peterson</b>	<b>556-9932</b>
<b>Time Study Ken Cooper</b>	<b>556-9934</b>	<b>Safety Rep. Andy Sadler</b>	<b>556-9935</b>
<b>Union Hall</b>	<b>793-9221</b>	<b>Union Hall Fax</b>	<b>793-9278</b>



Log on and visit  
the 1055 Home  
Page @ www.  
uswlocal1055.org

Contact the Local  
Union Hall  
uswa1055@  
tds.net

Keep Informed!

\*\*\*\*\*

~REMEMBER~

Notify the Hall  
regarding any  
address or  
telephone changes  
ASAP!

\*\*\*\*\*

Next

Monthly  
Membership  
Meeting  
is  
scheduled  
for  
Thursday,  
Mar 21st ,2013  
6:30 AM,  
2:30 PM,  
and  
6:30 PM

Brothers and Sisters,

During last month's Union meeting membership voted to do away with assessments for anyone who decides to join the Union. This does not have any affect on Dues owed and that money will still stand. We are down to only 32 People not in the Union out of over 750. While that number is great 100% would be even better. I strongly encourage everyone to be united in solidarity and stand as one with negotiations coming up.

I would like to thank everyone for taking the time to fill out the surveys on contract issues. There was good participation and some key issues brought up. Every day we are going over the contract page by page and addressing these issues.

*In Solidarity,  
Scott Lansdown  
Recording Secretary*

### WHY BE IN A UNION?????

Have you ever wondered what it would be like at our plant to not have a UNION? Since I have been at the plant, I have talked to several members who remembered that time in our plant's history.

There was a 7 day rotating 8 hour shift in which you worked one week on a shift then changed to another shift. With only one weekend off a month.

Work shifts were chosen by management..... You were paid twice a month on the 15th and the last day of the month.

If a wage increase was to be given (This was only to keep wages close to the wages that were in the Union plants, in an effort to keep the Union out of this plant), these wage increases were given to employees (not due to seniority), but by how much the supervisor liked you. They were given over a 3 month period. Best liked 1st month through least liked 3rd month.

Seniority rights for job bidding in Departments were not used, but the company chose favoritism instead.

Production workers had no say as to the operation of the plant or the work rules that the management would impose on the workers, and changed when it benefitted them.

These are just a few of the major items that the Production workers faced back in the 70's. A decision was made to try and form a Union to negotiate the differences and views that we had with the company.

In April, we will again enter into negotiations with Bridgestone, in an attempt to better our member's livelihood, and have work rules that are reasonable. If the negotiations with the company are successful before the deadline set by both parties of July 27,2013, then the plant will prosper for years to come. If not, be prepared to take your labor away until a settlement is reached.

Wear your Union shirts and caps with pride and show our solidarity in the oncoming months. New shirts of various designs are still on sale at the Union Hall.

Anyone who is still not a member, or a member not in good standing, can contact me at 793-9221, and I will sign you up to be a member, or work with you to get you back in good standing.

*In Solidarity  
Rodney Phillips  
Financial Secretary*

## WOMEN of STEEL

The Subject of the W.O.S. District 9 Quarterly meeting on February 8th , 2013 was Governor Haslem's bill on Workers Compensation. The bill would be detrimental to all workers and their families in the state. Tennessee already pays less than the national average for Workers Comp.

This bill consists of

- ◆ Cutting benefits to all injured workers.
- ◆ Create a New Bureaucracy
- ◆ Allow the Governor to Appoint a Workers Compensation "CZAR."
- ◆ Remove Workers Comp Cases from Impartial Court System and create a New " In House" Court.
- ◆ Decrease Workplace Safety: Allow Employers to "Throwaway Injured Employees"
- ◆ Increase the burden on Taxpayers

Everyone please contact Governor Bill Haslem's Office and voice your opinion about what is happening to hard working Men and Women. 615-741-2001

WOS are supporting the Unionization of Wal-Mart, fast food restaurants, domestic and Independent contractors. Our committee will be taking pride in trying to better our community. We welcome any suggestions from members that have someone in need.

The Women of Steel would like to thank everyone who helped support our fundraiser and to allow us to further our education and grow in our new members.

*Sincerely,  
Women of Steel*



*"It's not fair. We have to make up lies about the union...  
but they get to tell the truth about the company."*

## Health & Safety

Dear Members,

I would like to thank all sisters and brothers for the calls concerning Health and Safety at our plant. We have had issues in some departments that we have addressed. We were able to fix some of these, while some are still being worked on. And in saying this I'm asking for everyone's help in getting this accomplished.

Please call me with any and all Health & Safety issues that you may have. Health & Safety starts with each and everyone of us.

Also your Safety reps on each shift are

A crew Mitch Minton Dept 175,  
B crew Ernie Fabian Dept 175,  
C crew Rena Holladay Dept 175, C crew Tim Johnson Dept 126,  
D crew Gary Sinks Dept 175,  
Maint. Ronnie Crawford F crew.

*Safety Representative  
Andy Sadler*

### ICD

Small Engine Maintenance, Diagnostic, and Repair Class  
April 23rd through May 9th

Biggest Loser Challenge  
March 23rd through May 23rd  
Contact Marion White 793-0990 or Come by the Union Hall to Sign Up.

#### Contact information for Chief Stewards

<b>A crew</b>	<b>Al Fleming</b>	<b>Cell# 556-9941</b>	<b>back-up</b>	<b>Art Mullis</b>
<b>B crew</b>	<b>Rick Fabian</b>	<b>Cell# 556-9942</b>	<b>back-up</b>	<b>Gary Reed</b>
<b>C crew</b>	<b>Wayne Yelverton</b>	<b>Cell# 556-9943</b>	<b>back-up</b>	<b>Tim Johnson</b>
<b>D crew</b>	<b>Joe Eatherly</b>	<b>Cell# 556-9940</b>	<b>back-up</b>	<b>Rick Parker</b>
<b>Maint.</b>	<b>Jonathan Ferrick</b>	<b>Cell# 394-5507</b>	<b>back-up</b>	<b>Randy Andrews</b>

## Time Study

Brothers and Sisters,

There are several changes taking place in the curing and final areas of our plant. Please keep me posted on these changes as the company has a hard time fulfilling their contractual obligations in these matters.

If you work in any other area of our plant and have questions on standards or descriptions of work, please call the hall and keep me informed of your concerns.

If you are a tire builder your start of shift checks need to be properly done day in and day out, as this is a contributing factor for available build time per shift, and your safety and the quality of our product. All members need to strictly follow work standards for safety and quality.

Remember contract negotiations are right around the corner. We need to rally around our President and our negotiation team, support them and the decisions they collectively make for the benefit of us all. United we stand divided we beg!

*Fraternally,  
Ken Cooper  
Time Study Rep.*

## Pension & Insurance

Brothers and Sisters,

You can now set up an account to check insurance payments, EOB's, Out of pocket money spent, deductible's met, etc. by going to <http://www.bcbst.com/> If you get a bill that you don't understand, or just doesn't look correct, you can check it immediately through this web site.

Remember that your yearly deductibles started again on January 1st.

If you are getting bills from a company called Conexis for premiums that have to do with your benefits. Please bring them to me or someone in H.R. where we can see what the issue is. This company has been hired by Bridgestone to bill employees for their benefits payments when they are no longer on the active payroll. But they seem to be billing some people that are active and working.

*Fraternally,  
Pension & Insurance Rep.  
John Peterson*

## SOAR

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Soar chapter for retirees was chartered November 1999, prior to that it was called URW Retirees. This group was formed to assist with the issues and challenges of retirement.

All retirees are invited to join SOAR in order to stay informed with contract issues and government bills that influence our benefits such as healthcare. We would like for anyone who is getting ready to retire in the future to remember you can join this group when you retire by filling out a membership card. The dues are only \$ 12 a year for retirees and \$ 3 for spouses if they wish to join, a small price to pay to carry a United Steelworkers Union card for retirees. Along with your Soar membership card you will receive [USW@Work](mailto:USW@Work) magazine and other benefits as well.

Our retiree group meets on the second Tuesday of every odd month at the Local Union Hall at 10:00 am until 12:00 noon.

**As a retiree I can't stress enough how important it is to propose each set of negotiations to make improvements on Insurance benefits and Pension increases to protect you while you are working and more important is when you retire you will need these benefits. Each contract your benefits as a retiree are subject for negotiations so remember to get the best level of benefit protection you can.**

You are the backbone of the middle class making a good wage with decent benefits and most of all you carry a Union card. I didn't realize when I hired in back in 1975 it was a Non- Union factory and we made a base salary and got paid twice a month. We were working a six two shift back then and it was hard to change jobs. You didn't have much to say about working conditions or bid rights. And if someone got terminated they just hired someone else and you had no recourse, but now you have the grievance procedure. You also have just cause language that says if you are terminated you have the right to file a grievance and take it to arbitration and get your job back. There are so many benefits in having a Union and being a Union member and the most important one is being active in your Local Union. Local & Master negotiations will be starting soon and I ask every member to support the International Union and your Local Union President during these negotiations.

**We must go to the polls and defend our rights as Americans and the middle class and we must take back the House & Senate as Democrats who will fight for the middle class and the Union workers.**

*Tommy Reeder, President  
SOAR Chapter 9 UR-9*

## UNITED WE STAND

**It is important that all non-members join our union and work toward a common goal of being the best Labor Union we can be. Please encourage the following non-members to become part of the solution.**

CC#	NAME	DEPT.	CREW
356	Pearcy, David	139	B
1226	Garfinkle, David	129	N
1353	Fletcher, Kenneth	169	D
1425	Thompson, Johnny	139	B
1427	Beaty, Dyché	126	C
1682	Russell, Mike	123	B
1750	Allen, Jeff	175	B
1845	Ransom, Vanel	123	A
1859	King, Greg	175	B
1863	Tillman, Tony	126	C
1865	Brown, Jeff	175	A
1886	Smith, Nathaniel	123	A
1888	Butler, Vincent	175	B
1934	Sanders, Larry	139	B
1940	Gordon, Carolyn	175	C
1962	Noonan, Tammy	175	A
2183	Moody, Chris	112	C
2197	Jones, Terry	126	A
2237	Martin, Victoria	175	A
2334	Curran, Arron	112	A
2362	Gregg, John	139	A
2486	Davis, Micheal	175	C
2569	Christian, Johnny	175	C
9316	Hassell, Dewayne	175	A
9326	Onofua, Charles	175	C
9345	Kropczynski, Mark	791	D
9404	Finely, Stacy	791	D
9408	Brown, Benjamin	175	C
9468	Pett, Dillon	791	C
9542	Belcher, Jonathon	175	A
9577	Hardyman, Shannon	126	D
81256	Kopecheck, Ray	831	C

