

STEEL MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION UNIT

Joe Carley, President

WELCOME BACK

I would like to welcome all the members of the Steel Maintenance and Construction Unit back from their Holiday vacations and hope that your time spent with family and friends was memorable.

THE YEAR AHEAD

The year ahead will present us with many challenges. First of all, we've got to keep up the fight against illegally dumped foreign steel. As you know, after several years of a hard-fought struggle, the Bush administration agreed to impose tariffs on this steel, and in true Republican style, they almost immediately started rescinding those tariffs. So far, hundreds of restrictions have been lifted. The Republican Party now controls the House and the Senate and we can only expect more of this same corporate-biased behavior. Remember that one of the first things the Bush administration did when they took office was to repeal the Ergonomics bill that the Clinton administration had put into law just a term earlier. Aside from fighting the politicians, we also must struggle every day to convince the Company that our people can do more and more of the work that they keep sending out.

UAW V-CAP

The UAW'S V-CAP Check-off is a voluntary program that allows each member to make a modest contribution each month to help the union support candidates who care about American workers and their jobs.

By law, Union dues can't be used to support any federal candidate, and in an ever-increasing number of states, any candidate for public office. Our only means of monetary support for many Labor-endorsed candidates is voluntary political contributions, which are put into the International Union's political fund, UAW V-CAP.

The UAW has negotiated with many employers the right to bargaining unit check-off. ALL that is necessary is for the UAW member to sign a check-off card, which instructs the employer to deduct an amount selected by the member. A one dollar per month contribution amounts to less than a nickel a day, a three dollar per month donation is only a dime a day and so on. It doesn't sound like much, but even a little effort by all our Union members can produce much needed elections results in favor of our working families!

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Seniority employees (90 days seniority) will have Monday, January 20th as a paid holiday.

EMPLOYEE TUITION PLAN (ETAP)

Recent improvements to the ETAP benefit now allow employees to register for their classes online, view program guidelines, and access personal education history. The web site address is www.MyUAWFord.com:.

If you have any questions about the program please contact George Snow at 59-47745 or e-mail gsnow@rougesteel.com.

RETIREMENT PARTY

It seems as though we just had our annual retirement party but it is already time to schedule this year's, which will take place in early May. We do not have a firm date and time as of yet. Further details about the time and date will be in the March article.

Anyone interested in helping out with the retirement party please contact the Steel Maintenance and Construction Committeeroom at 313-31-71213.

CONGRATULATIONS

From all the elected and appointed Unit representatives to the following employees on the recent completion of their apprenticeship: Millwrights, **Steven Lewis**, **Joseph Beahon**, **Derek Meek**, **Michael Esquibel,** and **Kevin Hultgren:** Welder, **Mark Ingold**, Machine Repair; **John Bailey** and **David Woods**, Hydraulic Repair; **Chris Darling**, Electrician, **Terry Strochine**.

Once again, congratulations on a job well done and good luck in the future.

JOINT MASONRY PROGRAM

In the last contract we negotiated a new Joint Masonry Program whereby present employees would be given the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to become a Bricklayer. I am pleased to announce the program is working and three employees have recently successfully completed the program, and more will do so soon. The first three to complete the program are **Matthew Beard**, **L.C. Bulger,** and **Donald Kennedy**.

Congratulations on a job well done and thanks for helping to prove that our employees are more than capable of doing jobs that the Company too often gives to outside

RETIREMENTS

Congratulations to J-9 Millwright **Larry Surma** and Hot Strip Welder **Hugh Babbs** on their recent retirements. May your retirements be long, happy, and healthy. Also stay in touch by joining the Retirees' Chapter.

CONDOLENCES

From all elected and appointed representatives, our deepest sympathies to Unit Benefits Representative, Don Yokley and family,on the loss of his mother.