



# Local 715 NewsLetter

February 2009

Keeping Our Eyes On The Future

It's About Us

## NOTICE!! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!

**NOMINATION OF OFFICERS SET FOR TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24 & 25, 2009**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS SET FOR TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7 & 8, 2009.**

Dear Member,

This letter is your official notice that nomination of Officers for Local 715 will take place at Special Membership Meetings on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 4:30 P.M. and Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 6:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. at the Local 715 Union Hall, Elm Street, Woodburn, Indiana.

Positions to be filled are PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, RECORDING SECRETARY, FINANCIAL SECRETARY, TREASURER, GUIDE, TWO (2) GUARDS, SIX (6) EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMEBERS, THREE (3) TRUSTEES, FOUR (4) BARGAINING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ONE (1) POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ONE (1) ALTERNATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBER.

**THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL TAKE PLACE BY SECRET BALLOT ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009 AND WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009 FROM 12:00 NOON TO 12:00 MIDNIGHT EACH DAY, AT THE B.F. GOODRICH PLANT (in the open area near the Battery Changing Area), IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND THE LOCAL 715 BY-LAWS.**

Absentee ballots will be available to any member who is prevented from appearing at the polls because of service in the armed forces or on vacation.

A runoff election, if necessary, will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 and Wednesday, April 22, 2009 by secret ballot at the B.F. GOODRICH PLANT (in the open area near the Battery Changing Area), FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 12:00 MIDNIGHT.

Eric Betts, President  
U.S.W. Local 715

**LOCAL 715  
PROPOSED ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, or  
CHANGES to MASTER & LOCAL CONTRACT**

Our local will be entering into negotiations in the near future. Make your suggested changes and/or proposals of Local and/or Master contract language on the form below.

**All proposals must be submitted no later than March 20, 2009.**

Your Local Union Officers would like to have suggestions from the rank and file of the Membership. This is your contract!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Payroll Number \_\_\_\_\_ Crew \_\_\_\_\_

Please rank the following according to importance to you:

Job Security: \_\_\_\_\_

Wages/Grandfathering: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Care Benefits: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please - Only one suggestion per form.** If you need more forms, see any of your Officers, D.C.s, Crew Shift Stewards, or stop at the Union Hall. You may turn these suggestions in to your Officers, D.C.s, Crew Shift Stewards, or at the Union Hall. If you have any questions, please check with us.

**Eric Betts, President  
U.S.W. Local 715**

## Presidents Message

Sisters and Brothers,

As we start into 2009, the forecast for the tire industry looks much like it did in the last half of 2008. Michelin has already announced more time out at many of their Michelin based facilities as well as the indefinite layoff of eighty of our union brothers and sisters at the Opelika facility in Alabama. Bridgestone/Firestone has eliminated the majority, if not all, of the Light Truck and Passenger tires at their LaVergne, Tennessee plant. They have laid-off numerous employees, and taken time out, at their other U.S. facilities. Goodyear has taken, and continues to take, significant time out of their U.S. plants as well.

This economic downturn is the worst any of us has ever seen. A year ago, the Sunday Journal Gazette in Fort Wayne would have 8 to 12 pages of Help Wanted ads. Now there are around two pages. You can't pick up a newspaper, or watch any news broadcast without hearing of massive job losses across our country. Almost every one of us has either a Friend or Family member who is unemployed or "underemployed." The Auto industry in the U.S. is in shambles, the Financial Sector continues to spiral down out of control and the housing market has flat tanked. In short, many economists believe that we may be facing the worst financial crisis we've faced in this country in 100 years.

As Union Members of the United Steelworkers Local 715, we are among the more fortunate ones. We have a negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement that affords us a great deal of protection for our jobs. You all know that we have traveled some bumpy roads through the end of 2008. As we move into 2009, with the economy still worsening, we will continue to do everything possible to protect the job security of each and every one of our Members.

On a positive note, as a country we just elected the first U.S. President in modern times, President Barack Obama, who is not only unafraid to say the word "Union" in public, he openly embraces Collective Bargaining by Unions as a means for all Americans to prosper in these extraordinary times. As a Union, we worked very hard to get President Obama elected. That was the first step in helping to secure the future of working people. In the coming months we are going to be called on again to stand with President Obama as we struggle to achieve what we all should desire; a healthy, prosperous economy that is not beholden to any single entity except the citizens of the United States of America.

**Chopper Betts**  
USW Local 715 President



## Dental Claims

MetLife suggests you get a pretreatment estimate before you have certain complex dental services performed, such as crowns, bridges, dentures, implants, or periodontal work. The process is simple and gives you important information about covered services and benefit payment levels. It's like submitting a claim before services are performed.

To receive a pretreatment estimate, simply have your Dentist file a claim to MetLife outlining the proposed treatment. A MetLife dental consultant will review the request and within two weeks, both you and your Dentist will receive a pretreatment estimate that will outline what services are covered by the plan, the payment level, and will note any less expensive alternate treatment which may exist. (Example: If a tooth can be filled, the plan will not pay for a crown). You will then have information to discuss with your Dentist the best plan of treatment and will know before hand what if any out of pocket expenses you will have.

**Terry Cunningham**  
USW Local 715  
P & I Rep.

## Institute For Career Development

The 2009 spring/summer sessions are enrolling now and will be starting soon. I encourage anyone, and everyone who has an interest in doing ANYTHING outside of B.F. Goodrich should call or come see me at the Union Hall. My job is to help all Local 715 Union members to enhance themselves personally and, or professionally.

You are entitled to \$1800.00 per year (January 1st to December 31st) for training and, or schooling of your choice, so let me help you get the ball rolling.

I'm proud to announce that we are offering classes to the membership at the Local 715 Union Hall. We currently have classes scheduled to run for the 2009 spring semester, and fliers have been posted in every department in the plant for your viewing. I am currently working on up dating the web page to get all classes on the site for your viewing as well. For a complete list of classes, check the union board in your department or feel free to call the union hall at (260)632-4816.

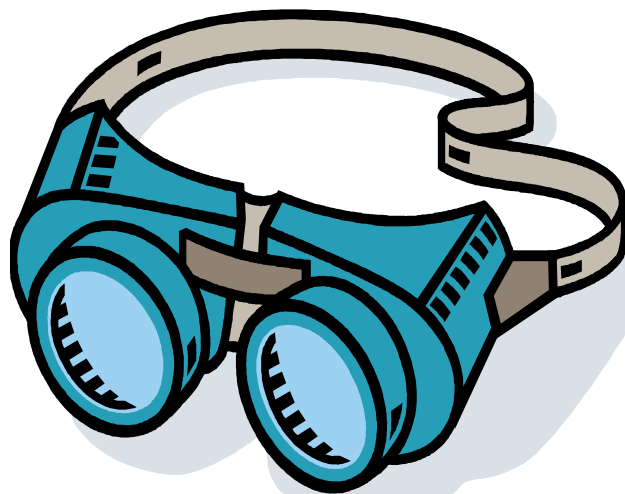


**Vernon Johnson**  
ICD Coordinator

## Personal Protection Equipment

The list of P.P.E. that is used in our work environment is quite extensive in length, ranging from mandatory steel toed shoes for everyone, to the arc flash protective clothing worn by maintenance. This required equipment is determined by the hazards of the process or the environment; the hazards are detailed further by Job Safety analyzes or Industrial Hygienist depending on the type of hazard. This is all part of the company's responsibility to provide a safe work place. P.P.E. is the first line of defense in protecting ourselves from the hazards we face everyday. Studies and statistics will back up the need for the P.P.E. where it is needed.

The real benefit from P.P.E. is the fact that it helps eliminate or reduce injuries to us, helping us return home as healthy as we left. It is part of my responsibilities to help educate our Membership as to how P.P.E. requirements are determined, as well as what the P.P.E. requirements are for each area of the plant.



**Mike Westrick**  
Health & Safety

