July 2014
Volume 5
Issue 4

### From the President's Desk...

As summer is finally here and in full bloom, I hope everyone had an opportunity to spend some time with family and friends over the July 4th holiday. Members had backyard and park picnics, bon fires, parties to help celebrate our 238th year as a nation. It is always great to see the United States flag displayed at many homes, in parades, etc. I encourage everyone to fly the flag year round, as we should all be proud of the country we call home.

Please keep our recently departed brothers and sisters in your thoughts and prayers. In addition, please keep our members who are off sick in our thoughts as well. We support them in their recovery efforts. If you know a coworker off on sick leave, give them a call and offer support or just be an ear to listen.

Summer of 2014 is a busy time for Local 1011. We have many things going on within the organization. Whether it be



living with the consequences of the companies rogue decision to close our Pickle and Tandem mill operations, challenging the companies unilateral LOP changes in Hot Strip, challenging several of the unlawful terminations

To be continue on page 6

Safety with JERRY



Local 1011 Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everybody has had a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup>. Of July weekend.

These last several months there have been some incidents that should make us all really stop and think.

In April an East Side employee was hit by a fork truck and his leg was broken

On June 13th. On the East Side an employee fell 32 feet

and survived.

On June 14th. On the East Side there was a furnace eruption, no injuries.

On June 24th. On the West Side an employee was hit from behind by a train, no serious injuries.

If you haven't seen the safety stand down yet, I'm sure you will soon. Two people were hit from behind, one by a train and one by a fork truck. It doesn't matter if its East or West, we're talking about people who were hurt.

Safety is this: Never make assumptions about your environment. Take a few

minutes to check the area thoroughly each and every time. Any shortcuts, no matter how many times you've used them before might prove a mistake that leads to an injury.

Always follow proper procedures, safety guidelines, precautions, and always be aware of the unforeseen.

Be safe for you and your loved ones,



Jerry Lewandowski Safety Vice- Chairman Local Union 1011

THE RECORD

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Dear Brothers and Sisters

#### Two events down and three to go

I would like to thank all who participated in the DAV walk and ICD Charity Golf Outing. Local 1011 was one of the biggest entrants in the 2013 Walk for Disabled American Veterans on May 31st 4th at Wicker Memorial Park. We had some members of our SOAR Chapter join us in support of America's wounded warriors. As usual it was a beautiful muggy day for a good stretch of the legs, 5miles for some of us. Thanks to Brothers Larry Smith and Jerry Lewandowski for their work in making the DAV walk a success. On June 28th the Leon Lynch Learning Center held its annual golf outing to benefit the Tino Fulimeni Memorial Scholarship Fund, which benefits the children and grandchildren of USW represented members throughout our country. In the past 4 years, 3 children of 1011 members have been awarded scholarships from this fund. Applications for scholarships can be found on the ICD website, in the Leon Lynch office, or in my office. The dead line to apply is September 2nd. Also, due to a scheduling issue the Education Fair scheduled for August 1st has been cancelled.

#### Save these dates and plan on attending!!!

- An evening at Deep River Water Park on July 31st
- USW 1011 Labor Day Picnic at Veteran's Memorial Park in Hobart on August 30th
- Lowell Labor Day Parade on September 1st

Anne Pennington, our Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative will be at our local on 7/23, 8/13, and 8/27 between 9 am to 11:30 am



ADELANTE!! Mariano "El Jefe" Flores

















### CONGRATULATIONS

#### RETIREES

Below is a list of our most recent retirees.

Best wishes and Godspeed on your journey.

Antonio Soto - Blast Furnace Rodrigo Gomez - Hot Strip Kenneth Borden - Coating Rich Cleveringa - Transportation Leonel Vazquez - Blast Furnace David Seaton - Blast Furnace James Wisniewski - Finishing **Roy Rogers - Finishing** Willie Brown - Finishing **Bob Scott - Finishing** 



Jim Flores -

Chairman of Grievance John Dec - Financial Sec. 11

Contact's



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Congratulations to Stana Krause and Arvella Swayne for completing the week long District 7 Women of Steel Summer School training last month.

Summer has arrived and it is time to start planning our end of summer and fall activities. Once again we will be doing our Back to School Drive for children of East Chicago whose families may need some extra supplies to get them ready to start classes. We will also participate and raise funds for the Making Strides against Breast Cancer walk at Hidden Lake on Sunday October 12, 2014. November and December will keep us busy with both our Annual Food Drive and our Salvation Army Angel Tree program. Last year we were able to stock St. Stan's food pantry and provide holiday food for over 500 people. St. Stan's will also accept donations of household / personal care items for the seniors in the community. Last year was the 1st time we added these items to the wish list and we were able to fill 3 boxes full. Our Angel Tree project continues to also grow each year, last year we provided gifts for over 100 children. We know that every year we continue to grow our activities and without our members we could not be successful. Last year we had participation from every area of our plant from Motor Pool collecting money to buy food and the Women of 3SP shopping for Angel Tree gifts, Security and Fire Services collected can goods and purchased the race cars that make sounds every time they are moved. The 84"HSM collected money for 30 Angel Tree children and did the shopping for them. Iron Producing and Coating West collected money and stuffed back packs for our Back to School Drive. A big thank you to everyone that ran around trying to find all the \$2.99 and \$4.99 back packs at Walgreen's before they ran out of stock. We also need to thank the Guy's at our Union Hall who each year get drafted to help us deliver the food and gifts.

Did you know that many grocery store cashiers are union members? A lot of stores are putting in or expanding the use of self-check lanes with 1 cashier monitoring 4-6 lanes. The stores have cut back on union members but I have not seen a price difference if I use the lane with a cashier or without. Some local stores only have self-check-out lanes on the night shifts. We need to support our union brothers and sister and not use the self-check-out lanes and if a store is non-union we still need to support the need for jobs!!

Our next WOS meeting will be August 11, 2014 at 3:30pm and will be held at Local Union 1011. We will continue to plan our Back to School Drive, Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk on October 12, 2014 and our Holiday activities. Please bring your ideas and suggestions to our meeting or contact one of our WOS members to get involved. All union members of Local 1011 are invited to get involved with WOS.

In Solidarity, Isabell Sundin WOS Chair I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Maya Angelou, American author, poet, and activist

Well I would like to start off by congratulating 3 long time Blast Furnace employees on their recent retirements! Antonio Soto, David Seaton and last but not least my good friend Leonel "Blackie" Vasquez. I want to wish you guys Good Luck and a long and happy retirement, These 3 gentlemen have put in many years of dedicated service here in the BF, and are really going to be sorely missed! And now with the # 7 Blast Furnace reline in full swing things here at # 3 & # 4 Blast Furnaces are really heating up, recently with the week ending May 31st. We broke a record for tonnage, with a total of 75,766 tons for the week! Great job by everyone involved. And as always we need to remember with the hot weather now upon us it is really necessary to work safely and to stay hydrated by drinking lots of liquids!



In Solidarity

Area 1 Griever

Eddie Gonzalez



# The BIG CHAIR

#### Greetings All,

Just a reminder that department Assistant Grievers election will be held in the month of August. Information about the elections and notice to candidates will be posted in the departments in the next couple weeks. If you have any questions contact your griever or myself.

The trend continues as attendance related discharges are on the rise, I encourage anyone who has a medical condition or a family member who has a medical condition to look into applying for FMLA you may qualify.

Note to all: Consider all company phones to be recorded and there are hundreds of cameras in the plant. The company has and will use recordings against Employees in discipline cases, so to avoid potential issues keep conversations professional.



Fraternally,
Jim Flores
Grievance Chairman
USW Local 1011

Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital.
Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration.





#### **Restroom Etiquette**

One of the top complaints that I have recently heard involves problems in workplace restrooms. These include workers not using their designated facility, such as men entering the women's restroom, and also workers carelessly leaving the facilities unclean.

The workplace is our second home. Even though most areas have janitors, these are not our maids. They are not on call and we all should make every attempt to keep these areas clean. There are several company policies and OSHA rules that can lead to serious harassment complaints when not followed.

#### Please try some of the following tips:

- \* Unfortunately, some restrooms are unisex areas. If you work in an area with an unmarked unisex restroom, please have someone in management label it to avoid problems.
- \* Use your designated facility. If the restroom is labeled Men's and you are a woman or if it is labeled Women's and you are a man, STAY OUT OF IT! Not following this simple rule is just asking for a harassment complaint!
- \* Avoid standing 6 feet from urinals and toilets while using them. When it is 90 degrees out, aim is very important and it is very noticeable when workers miss. Also, Arcelormittal is a very large corporation that can afford running water. Please Flush The Toilet!
- \* If you have a problem with the opposite sex using your facility, talk to someone in management and in safety. In some areas, a simple lock has helped out a lot.
- \* When using a unisex restroom, please be courteous enough to close stall and restroom doors. No one wants to see your ..... Also, please understand that some prefer to lock the door of unisex restrooms to avoid being trapped in with the opposite sex. What would you want for your wife or daughter? This is also a safe way to avoid a harassment complaint.
- \* Any problems should be directed to management. Unclean restrooms is a serious OSHA violation and sometimes it is good to remind the company of this to keep them on top of such issues.



In Solidarity, Sharita Alexander Brothers and sisters,

In benefits, we have been running into issues with our union members having surgery. Just to better inform you, something to watch for, and ask for, is the **anesthesiologist in our network?** What has been occurring is an individual is getting an **in-network** surgeon and the surgeon or hospital is giving an **out-of network** anesthesiologist. Fortunately I have been able to get some put back in network for billing, but not all, and the bill can be quite costly to the member. So please when you are doing a planned surgery request in-network anesthesiologists, it can save you quite a bit of your money, and always get a preauthorization for the surgery. You can call the phone number on the back of your insurance card. This will help prevent problems of coverage.

Another question we have been having is adding dependents to our insurances due to marriage, adoption, or simply having a new born. This is done by UMR; the company has hired UMR to administer healthcare eligibility. The healthcare eligibility phone # is 1-866-268-3489. Here is a list of helpful numbers and emails for information on your benefits, and as always you are welcome to contact me or chief with any benefit questions or problems you are having.

**PBGC** 1-800-400-7242 **STEELWORKERS PENSTION TRUST** 1-800-848-1953

STEELWORKERS HEALTH AND WELFARE HIGHMARK BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD 1-866-267-3280

1-888-296-7493 EMAIL: www.bcbs.com

<u>CAREMARK</u> 1-800-552-8159 <u>UNITED CONCORDIA</u> 1-888-320-3316

EMAIL: www.caremark.com EMAIL: www.ucci.com

**DAVIS VISION** 1-800-999-5431 **FMLA/SICKNESS & ACCIDENT BENEFITS** 1-888-596-7872

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP). ALCOHOL/ADDICTION/COUNCILING PROGRAM

AWAKENINGS COMMUNITY SERVICES INC. 1-866-327-2726

#### SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT INFORMATION

Sickness and accident benefits begin:

On the (1st) day of disability as a result of an accident,

On the first day of inpatient hospitalization or outpatient surgery regardless of cause, or

On the (8th) day of a disability resulting from an illness or injury when not hospitalized.

#### **Duration of Benefits**

Sickness and accident benefits are paid according to the following schedule;

#### Years of Continuous service

When absence begins	Weeks of Benefits

Less than 6 months 1 week per week of service

6 months but less than 2 years 26 weeks 2 years but less than 20 years 52 weeks 20 years or more 104 week

The amount of weekly sickness and accident for which you are eligible is equal to 70% of your base rate of pay for up to a maximum of 40 hours per week.

In Solidarity,



Larry Oar Benefits Coordinator USW Local 1011 Office: 219-398-3150 Ext 16 Email: larryoar1011@yahoo.com



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#### continued from page 1 Water Park Day being held on Thursday

they have imposed or challenging incentives, we are in constant fight with the company on these items (just naming a few) We are committed to keep pushing back on ArcelorMittal with the way they are choosing to do business. We must give the grievance procedure our fullest support in these efforts. There is a process and we will follow it to the fullest of our contract.

On a more pleasant note, we are also busy with some positive stuff. For instance, we successfully held a Local 1011 scholarship contest in which we will provide (4) \$500 scholarships to our memberships children this coming fall semester. I want to congratulate Mackenzie Barcelli, Samantha Knox, Jordan Gonzalez and Armando Nunez on their being selected as this year's winners. They had to write an essay describing what their family member being in the union has meant to them. All of the essays were great. It was nice to see our younger generation understand the benefits of being unionized. We hope to find a way to share with all

We have our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Local 1011

Water Park Day being held on Thursday July 31st, @ 6:30—8:30pm. It is a great opportunity for our families to get together and fellowship with one another. Tickets are on sale now through July 24th. See attached flier.

We will be holding another Local 1011 Labor Day Picnic this year on Saturday August 30th @ Veterans Park in Hobart, IN. Be on the lookout for future information on the picnic as well as other activities in conjunction with.

Local 1011 will be participating in the International USW Convention in August. The USW holds a convention every 3 years by constitution guidelines in effort to adopt or amend any new bylaw changes or any other organizational business. I hope to represent Local 1011 well and bring back any new information from the world of the USW in Pittsburgh.

We continue to fill seats in our craft training program. It has been a long time coming getting things up and going well. Congratulations to those recent "graduates" of the tier 1 and 2 programs. I wish you success in your new jobs. I hope you share feedback to the program so that future trainees continue to be successful in their efforts.

Along with all the inside the plant as well

as outside distractions we all face every day, we must remain focused on working safely at work and at home. We have had far too many serious accidents and near misses here in the plant. We also have too many members off on S and A because of accidents that happened at home. As no one knows for sure what specifically contributes to this, we always seem to show a spike in occurrences in the summertime. Please be vigilant and lookout for yourself and our coworkers each and every day, every task. BE SAFE OUT THERE!!!!

I hope to see you at the upcoming Local 1011 events. As always, we look for "help" in many ways to work for the local. Let someone know and get involved. Most importantly, come out and fellowship as a union member.

In Solidarity,
Lonnie Asher
President
USW Local 1011



Hello Brothers & Sisters,

I hope you and your family had a happy and safe 4th of July spending time at parades or at picnics. Summer is here with all the heat and storms associated with it. My concerns go out to the families that have had property damage from the last major storm that rolled through our area.

Please make sure that everyone is drinking a lot of water or Gatorade while at work or at home. Keep your eyes on fellow employees and also your family members when out in this heat. It does not take much to be overcome by the heat.

Also, make sure you and your families have an emergency kit set up at home because of the storms. We have already gone through one terrible storm that had produced 5-6 tornados in the Chicago land/Northwest Indiana areas.

I wish everyone a safe and healthy summer. Have fun with your families.

Ron Mikash

H3/H4 Gas Coordinator



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The Midwest's Favorite Waterpark!

## The Local 1011 Private Beach Party

July 31st, 2014 @ 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Important rules:



#### More information:

- By purchasing the ticket you accept all the rules, and must abide by them.
- Get your tickets early to take advantage of the discount, FIRST COME –FIRST SERVE
- Ticket sales start July 1st, see a committee person or go to the Hall.
- Members and their guests may enter the PARK at 5:00 PM on the day of the event. In order to be admitted into the park each guest must have a special admission ticket provided by the PARK.
- Guests will turn in the ticket at the group sales gate.
   ALL GUEST MUST WEAR A PARK
   PROVIDED WRIST BAND, IN ORDER TO
   STAY IN THE PARK AFTER CLOSING TO
   THE GENERAL PUBLIC.
- GUEST MUST STAY OUT OF THE WATER ATTRACTIONS FROM 5:45-6:30pm.
- Children 12 mo. and under do not need admission

- Food will NOT be provided, you may bring your own food. Snacks will be provided by the local.
- ALL AMPLIFIED MUSIC MUST BE PRE-APPROVED.
- If diapers need to be worn, they must be approved swim diapers.
- All tubes will be available FREE to the group, AFTER 6:30pm.
- The cost of a ticket is \$5.00 (CASH ONLY)
- Deadline for tickets is July 24, 2014.
- Limited concession will be available through the PARK.
- Limit of 10 tickets per member.
- Please fill out form below and see a contact personnel.

TICKET CONTACT PERSONNEL:

Deep River Waterwork \* 9001 US Highway 30 Crown Point IN 46307 \* www.deepriverwaterpark.com

DEED RIVER WATERPARK The Midwest's Favorite Waterparks	TICKET FORM UNITED STEELWORKERS
NAME:	# OF TICKETS x \$5 =
CELL	]#;

We hope everyone has endured this long and extreme winter we have had in Northwest Indiana this year. We are sure everyone is ready to get outside and begin exercising while enjoying the sunshine and warmth. With the new season, new routines and habits begin to form. This is a good time to begin planning daily outside activities. We would also en-



mittee@yahoo.com email address each month for reimbursement. Within the body of the email the following information must be included, Clock #, Name, and Name of Gym you are attending. Be sure "Gym Membership" is typed in the subject line. The Marathon Reimbursement Program will also continue this year, however only two receipts per month per person will be accepted, and reimbursed for up to \$30.00. Be sure in the body of the email to include Clock#, Name, and Name of Marathon and "Marathon" in the subject line. We will reimburse the gym memberships and individual marathons, (again up to 2) up to \$30.00 each month until we are unable to do so, and a new amount, if possible, will be specified. If you have any questions for the committee email them to above address with "Question" typed in the subject line. We are going to try to reimburse quarterly for 2014. The receipts for each quarter need to be turned in by April 1st 2014, by midnight, in order to qualify. The Company's payroll system takes a little longer than we anticipate so please be patient. Also, please be informed, we as a committee, found out in late December, the company has determined what we call reimbursement to be taxable income.

The Biometric Screening was successful last year and we hope all of you took advantage of "Know Your Numbers" by using the information to adjust your eating and exercising habits. This year possibly look forward to more comprehensive tests, with more useful information. More information on dates and times for the Screening will be in upcoming articles and your department billboards. The billboards most all have been placed. I have spoken with the Utilities Griever. He assured me the rest in his area will be placed soon. The billboards will then soon be updated with new information. Be sure to check for new updated information.

We are planning and preparing for Health Week which is set for the week of September 30<sup>th</sup>. The theme for our Health Week will be more of a exercising and fitness theme. We intend to have various vendors available to support our exercising and fitness routines and answer any questions you may have concerning such. Fitness is a very important aspect of "Transforming YOU" into healthy and happier people. Sometimes all information concerning fitness can be overwhelming. We are hoping to have questions answered and helpful techniques and hints available to you during Health Week. Be sure to look for more information in upcoming articles and department billboards.

The Healthy Vending Machine surveys were a success. We received a lot of useful feedback from all of you and very much appreciate your participation. We are evaluating the placement of various vending machines. We may be adding more vending machines to parts of the plant and removing others and placing them in more accessible areas. We are finding which machines work and which machines don't work and need to be replaced. We are now able to fill the machines with the intent of meeting your expectations. Without the feedback you give to us, we are unable to address any concerns you may have.

The Wellness Committee is in the process of planning and establishing a Walking Group Program to be presented to the Company for approval. This will ensure everyone is giving a chance to exercise with a group of employees, holding each other accountable for progress. It is a motivation to get out and walk with a group to meet specific goals and encourage each other to continue each group members' journey to happier healthier people. Please look for more information concerning the Walking Groups in future articles and department billboards.

Please feel free to contact any of the Wellness Committee Members with any questions or ideas you may have concerning the Wellness Program at the email address usw1011wellnesscommittee@yahoo.com.



Thank You,

Kenneth J. Matusiak



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Next Generation Committee is in the process of trying to put together a charity 5 on 5 basketball tournament hosted by local 1014 Next Generation Committee.

We are hoping to raise money for school supplies for needy families, the cost will be \$125.00 per team with up to a 7 man team.

This is one of the many ways we are trying to be active in our community and build a stronger union bond amongst our fellow brothers and sisters.

We are in the beginning stages of planning right now if you would like to help plan or play in the game feel free to reach out.

The tournament will be August 16th & 17th, 2014.

Ken Bandy (219) 808-5123 Next Generation Chairman Mr.kmbandyjr@yahoo.com



For the next couple of months the Training Center will be full with "MTM Tier 2", "MTM Tier 1" factor testing and Welding classes. MTM Tier 1 will start soon, we are working on dates as we speak. I need students to be focused on preparing for these classes and ready for the challenge. It's in your best interest and not a waste of time, this is your future. The Instructors are here to help in any way and answer any questions.

This is YOUR program and like anything else, without the participation of people who care, it will suffer tremendously.

Until next time, be good and God bless you and yours.

Larry Smith

**Training Coordinator** 

"Steal Good Ideas Shameless, Share Good Idea Willingly"



The BUWC are working together with area grievers and all Union Brothers and Sisters when issues are brought to our attention as quick as we can. Unfortunately the company can drag their feet on some issues. That is also being worked on. If there is an issue out there that anyone feels that it has not been addressed please let us know.

Thanks,

Mike "Shark "Scharnke Sr.



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## by: Bruce Lawrence



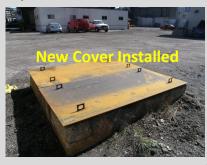
April 30th, 2014

Two Utility West MTE's were in route to a job at the Blast Furnace Recycle area when they drove past what appeared to be standing rain water on the top of a 5 X 5 foot pit cover raised approximately 10 inches above ground level. Upon further investigation, they discovered that the cover and frame had fallen into the pit and they were looking at an open pit, 7 foot in depth and full of water. They immediately notified Utilities Safety. Portable Guard rails were placed in position to prevent someone from falling into the pit. The water will be removed and a new style cover will be fabricated and installed. Because of the close proximity of the parking area, someone might have tripped and been seriously injured if it had not been for the "Shared Vigilance" of these two employees.

#### Replacement Cover Installed on May 25th, 2014







Samantha Knox -Purdue Lafayette University

"The union has helped...workers get the rights and fairness that they deserve..."

Parent - Eric Knox Hot Strip

## The Scholarship Winners

Mackenzie Barcelli -Southern Illinois University

"...union is the reason my father can spend so much time with his family..."

Parent - David Barcelli Hot Strip



Jordan E. Gonzalez -Purdue Calumet University

"I have learned of the need to succeed and pursue my goals through my father's involvement and accomplishments in his union."

Parent - Eddie Gonzalez
Blast Furnace

Armando Nunez -IUPUI

"Unions allow people to be able to focus safely on their job..."

Parent - Armando Nunez

Coating