

Burleigh Bulletin

United Steelworkers Local 2-232 at Briggs & Stratton

ISSUE 10

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Union Wins Massive Wage Theft Grievance

When a worker in Engine Components noticed her pay was short, she went straight to the Grievance Rep. And the grievance she filed got her and another worker paid.

After an investigation, the union was able to prove that facilitator Nicki Briggs had knowingly and repeatedly altered workers' time cards without notifying them; consequently, the company had stolen over 12 hours of overtime over the course of two and a half months.

The company had no choice but to pay out the money it owed.

Here is what you need to know about wage theft:

Every year, companies steal billions in wages from their employees, but at Briggs & Stratton we have a union that will fight to make sure we're paid every penny we earn.

If you're being pressured to work off the clock without pay, that's wage theft. Any time you work more than eight hours in a given shift, you are entitled to overtime pay. If you don't get time-and-a-half, that's wage theft.

If you're expected to set up your work area,



take out the trash, or check your forklift before the bell rings at the start of your shift, you could have a legitimate grievance.

If you're expected to move the last few pallets of material, put away your tools and clean up your work area, fill out paperwork, or continue working in any way after the bell rings, you could have a legitimate grievance.

If you think you have a grievance regarding wage theft or anything else, talk to the union steward in your department.

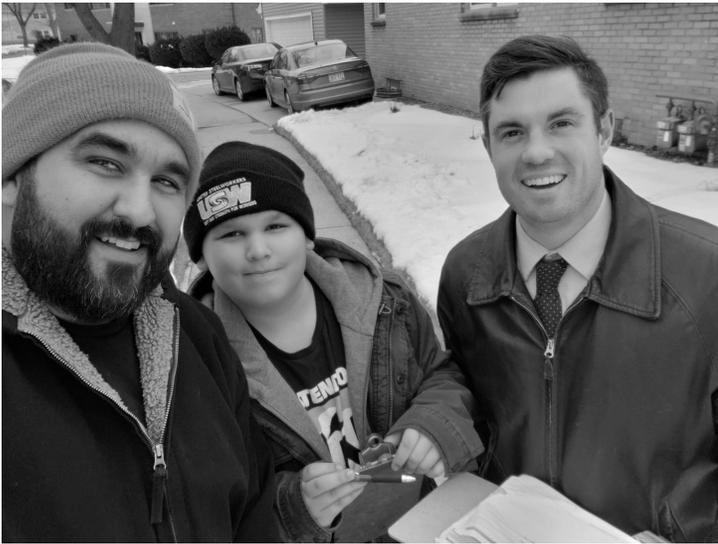
MALC to Host Free Union Organizer Training

The Milwaukee Area Labor Council is hosting a workshop with National AFL-CIO Internal Organizing Coordinator, Charles Handel Lundy, March 18th, 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Labor Council 633 S. Hawley Rd. Milwaukee, Yatchak Hall

The event is free for union members.

USW Local 2-232 members are encouraged to attend and postings have gone up.

“Whether it be membership recruitment, contract or issue campaigns, or mobilizing around legislative fights, internal organizing is the cornerstone of a strong local and a strong labor movement.”



Grievance Representative Chance Zombor and his son canvassing with Alex Brower, Feb 1.

Union Endorses Alex Brower for Comptroller

United Steelworkers Local 2-232 has endorsed Alex Brower for Milwaukee City Comptroller.

After interviewing Alex and allowing him to speak and take questions at the January membership meeting, the executive board of our union voted unanimously to endorse him.

Alex Brower is running for comptroller to increase transparency and accountability in City Hall. He has a plan to establish a public bank to provide quality, low-cost services to local government, citizens, and commerce. And he wants to replace WE Energies with a municipal utility to drive down utility bills and generate energy from renewable sources.

President Jesse Edwards said, "Alex Brower would be a voice for working people in City Hall. His vision resonates with our members."

Alex is a teacher and president of the Substitute Teachers Unit of the teachers union. He has been involved in the credit union movement and cooperative business for over 13 years.

Grievance Representative Chance Zombor said, "Everyone who hears about his ideas is instantly on board. I've never seen so many people this excited about a city comptroller race."

The Spring Primary is February 18th. Make sure you're registered to vote, know your polling place, and have proper photo ID.

Voluntary Layoffs

When the Briggs & Stratton plant in Murray, Kentucky closed for good, it affected our members because the Burleigh Plant manufactures components that were used to make engines in Murray.

The company has not given a timetable for the slowdown, but the engine operation is expected to eventually resume at the Briggs plant in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

Postings went up on January 27th and members in the affected areas were offered voluntary layoff.

Only two members opted for the layoff. Others have been transferred to open jobs in other departments or on other shifts.

It is important to note that the contract does not allow the company to do *involuntary* layoffs of bargaining unit members while temps are working anywhere in any of our Wisconsin locations.

The contract also forbids the company from *hiring* while bargaining unit members are on layoff, voluntary or involuntary.

The union is continuing to monitor the situation closely and will fight to make sure all members' rights are respected.

New Stewards

Lee Washington has been elected steward for all of 3rd shift. Lee is eager to fight for members and has already begun filing grievances on their behalf.

Union Food Drive

The Union is teaming up with Hunger Task Force to provide nonperishable food items to struggling families in our area. Here's all you need to do:

- ★ Bring nonperishable food items to the March Membership Meeting.
- ★ If you can't make it to the meeting, give your donation to a union officer.

It's as easy as that.