

Burleigh Bulletin

United Steelworkers Local 2-232 at Briggs & Stratton

Issue 1

May 1, 2019

Highlighting Recent Victories

Proper protective equipment has finally been issued to drivers in Home Stanby Production Control.

A worker in home standby/production control recently suffered an injury while changing the propane on his forklift. He was attaching the new tank and propane began spraying wildly out of the nozzle freezing his hand. He reported the injury immediately

and was treated.

The union immediately demanded the company issue proper gloves to drivers, but management had every excuse in the book.

They said, "Gloves are too expensive."

The union said, "Injuries are *more* expensive."

They suggested all drivers share a single pair of gloves.

The union said, "That's how fungus spreads."

In the end every driver was issued their own pair of gloves.

This particular incident was caused by a faulty gas tank. It could have happened to anyone, which is why it's important for everyone to be issued the proper equipment

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New Stewards

Develon Diggins

Ms. Dee is the 1st Shift steward for all of Home Standby Department. She is a long time union member and a fighter. She is very trustworthy.

Michael Smith

Mike is the 1st shift steward for all three Tractor lines. He takes his duties as steward very seriously.

Glenn Payette

Glenn is the 1st shift steward for both Pressure Washer lines. He is a well respected union member. Well qualified to represent his fellow workers.

If you are interested in taking a more active role in the union, contact your grievance rep at: BriggsRep@gmail.com

Solidarity with Union Brothers and Sisters at Harley-Davidson.

By President Jesse Edwards

Steelworkers at Harley-Davidson recently settled a new contract with the company, which by all objective standards was a victory

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Know Your Rights

You have the right to union representation whenever a boss asks you a question that can lead to discipline. You cannot be punished or retaliated against for demanding union representation. Simply say, "*If this conversation can lead to discipline in any way, I want to have a union steward present,*" and then refuse to answer any questions until your steward or a union officer is there to represent you.

**Membership Meeting:
May 19th, 9:30 - 11:30 am**

Harley-Davidson (continued)

for the union and its members.

The contract gives workers a 14% pay increase over five years. The company also promised to take measures that will give Harley-Davidson workers greater job security.

There are some important takeaways for us in their victory:

The union makes us strong. Harley-Davidson workers stuck with the union. Here at Briggs, every member must strive to be an organizer. Talk with the people on your line about why they should join and be active in the union. United we stand, divided we fall.

There is more to a contract than pay and benefits. Steelworkers at Harley-Davidson voted against a prior version of the agreement because of concerns about seniority rights, temporary workers, and job security. They read the fine print and opted to fight until they reached a satisfactory agreement. When we fight, we win.

Harley-Davidson workers received solidarity from organized labor. USW locals nationwide, in Canada, Mexico, and elsewhere, were following contract negotiations at Harley. I personally stood on their picket line and offered our local's solidarity. And many other unions sent support.

We should never feel isolated in our struggle. The fight for dignity and respect on the job is universal. There are working class fighters all over the world waiting for us to stand up and fight with them for a better tomorrow.

To join the union or find out how you can become more active, talk to a steward or union officer or email BriggsRep@gmail.com.

Victories (continued)

to perform their job safely.

The contract obligates the company to protect the health and safety of employees. Article X, section 5 says, "The employees shall have the right to refuse to work on unsafe operations." Contact your steward immediately if management ever tries to put you in harm's way.

The union won back the weekend for workers on the pressure washer lines.

Quick-thinking members on the pressure washer lines contacted a union representative early on a Friday morning to say the company was trying to make Saturday overtime mandatory with only one day's notice.

Article VI, Section 9 (i) of the contract says, "Whenever possible the company will notify employees on the Thursday of each week when there is to be weekend overtime."

Management had asked workers on the pressure washer lines to volunteer on Thursday, but the weekend overtime was not posted until the following morning.

Management put up a fight, but the union refused to back down. We demanded that the mandatory overtime be cancelled.

Ultimately, the facilitator went back to the floor asking for volunteers and found what they needed to make the line run on Saturday. The mandatory was cancelled and the volunteers got the overtime they wanted.

REPRESENT YOUR UNION!

- ★ T-shirts
- ★ Hats
- ★ Outerware
- ★ Stickers
- ★ And more



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