

Burleigh Bulletin

United Steelworkers Local 2-232 at Briggs & Stratton

Issue 4

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Solidarity With Immigrant Workers

Statement by Union President Jesse Edwards

USW Local 2-232 stands in solidarity with our undocumented brothers and sisters throughout America who are living in fear of deportation. We stand in solidarity with their families who live with the anxiety of knowing their loved ones could disappear at any moment.

As an industrial union in a majority minority workplace, our local knows the pain of discrimination and racism, so we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Latino community, we condemn the raids on immigrant workers in Mississippi and around the country, and we promise to do everything in our power to fight for a better tomorrow.



Photo credit: Joe Brusky (From the 2017 Day Without Latinos March)

Signing Up for the Union Just Became Easier

Since the company unscrupulously removed dues checkoff from its implemented contract, some members have had a hard time signing up to pay dues online. Not everyone is tech savvy and some have no internet access at home. To help face this challenge, the union has introduced new paper forms.

The form is modeled after the one used by Milwaukee teachers after Scott Walker passed Act 10, the infamous union-busting law that sparked a massive revolt in 2011. The Milwaukee Teachers Education Association is now one of the city's strongest and most militant unions. What worked for them can work for us.

If you've had trouble with the online system, or if you're one of the few people who has somehow not been approached about signing up, be sure to ask a steward or union officer for one of the new paper forms.

If you're new, this will be a good chance for you to get acquainted with union leadership and learn about opportunities for involvement. If you're a temp, unfortunately the law is set up to prohibit you from joining, but talk to people in your work area about how to get signed up once you're a Briggs employee.

We're in this together. And together we can win respect, have a say on our working conditions, and make this the kind of job we'd want to pass down to our children.

Contact your Grievance Representative at:



chance.zombor@gmail.com

262-844-3703

On the 3% Pay Raise

The 3% raise that went into effect August 1st was not enough.

In contract negotiations, the union proposed a 5% raise. Our position was simple: In order to attract and retain workers, the company would need to raise wages substantially, and Briggs can definitely afford 5%.

The company claimed 2% was the best it could do, and they wouldn't budge, so the union negotiated language making a 2% raise the *minimum* Briggs could dish out.

Now that we're experiencing obscene levels of turnover, the company is admitting that the union was right and 2% was not enough to attract and retain workers. So they gave us an extra penny on the dollar.

We'll take it. But we're not going to act like it's a game changer.

As the union continues to gain strength and momentum, the company will throw us scraps and try to placate our movement. But members aren't dumb. We know what it takes to win and we're building toward it every day.

Changes in Leadership

Mike Henry has resigned as Local Union Vice President. We sincerely appreciate all his efforts and thank him for his years of service.

Tim Reiter is the new Vice President of USW Local 2-232. Tim has been a Grievance Representative at Strattec since 2015. And prior to Strattec, he was a Grievance Representative for UAW Local 1866 representing workers at Delphi Automotive in Oak Creek.

We congratulate Tim and look forward to working with him in his new capacity as Vice President of our local.

Erica Jackson has been elected Steward for Departments 797 and 719 on 1st shift. Erica is a former Grievance Representative. She is universally respected and held in high regard. She's exceptionally capable of leading and representing members in her departments. We're glad to have her on our side.

Upcoming Events

Troublemakers School:

Saturday, August 24, 9:00 am
Chicago Teachers Union
1901 W Carroll Ave, Chicago

Registration is \$30 or \$15 for low income attendees. Register online at:

Labornotes.org/Chicago

Contact your Grievance Rep for details and carpool info.



Laborfest:

Labor Day, Monday, September 2
Rally at Zeidler Park 9:00 am
March to Summerfest grounds

Laborfest is a celebration of the power of organized labor. March in the parade with Milwaukee area unions, enjoy free drinks, free food, semi-pro wrestling, live music, and much more. Bring your family, get free USW t-shirts (while supplies last), and carry our awesome new banner!

REPRESENT YOUR UNION!

- ★ T-shirts
- ★ Hats
- ★ Outerwear
- ★ Stickers
- ★ More



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