



The Classifieds

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT CHAIRMAN

by Cecelia Stacy

Stronger Together Enforcing our Contract, Fighting for Justice United

Let me start out by first saying thank you for all your support. The words of encouragement and appreciation we have received from you has really been up lifting in our spirits and soul. The weather was so bad on Monday, February 5, but our special meeting had to go on. A big thank you to all who came out to vote. Yes to approve the proposed agreement was 97%. No to reject the proposed agreement was 3%. Based upon the 97%, the contract was proposed to the Board on Tuesday, February 6. It was a long negotiating period, the first time in the history of our contract that we started the school year without a contract. However, that was not the only first in the history of L01; this was the first time we had to petition the board for help due to the lack of willingness to move forward. It's the first time in the history of our contract

that we received more than a ten cent raise in one shot. There's more, but we don't want to live in the past but continue to look up and move forward. It's not where we start but where we end. This is a 3-year contract and June of 2020 we will be back in negotiations and no more will we be nickel and dimed. No more going backwards. We will continue to grow united and stand with each other for what is right. We are still a long way from what is just and fair and 75¢ is just the beginning of what is to come. There were many, many more accomplishments. I will list them in things that make you go Hmmm. I would like to thank our Union President Don Hill and our Legal Advisor Mark Trone for respecting our wants and helping us in accomplishing the contract that we have. Again, I say to you our members, thank you for trusting and believing in us your GNC team.

There are a couple of big months coming in the near future. March is the month for Nominations of the different Union positions, April is the month for

February 13, 2018
Volume 19, Issue 2

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5 Ways to Contact your Union

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United Steelworkers

Local Union No. 745
2496 E. Maize Road
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815/235-9713

Elections, and May is the month for taking office.

Summer School applications are now available. Summer School is a week-long class held in Champaign/Urbana, IL. These classes educate you on union positions and are an excellent source for learning and understanding your Union position. You will also receive a \$500 scholarship for giving up that week away from family and attending your week of classes. We check in on Sunday and are served dinner before the opening ceremony. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served daily. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other Sisters and Brothers from the Chicago and Gary, Indiana area. These different locals are affiliated with the same District, District 7 Director Mike Millsap. They have classes for Officers, Arbitration, Contract Negotiations, Next Generation (Next Gen), WOS (Women Of Steel), etc.



FUN FACTS ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY

- Groundhog Day was originally observed on February 14.
- The popular medieval folk belief that birds choose their mates on February 14 made doves a favorite symbol for Valentine cards. The dove was sacred to Venus and other love deities and was known for choosing a lifelong mate.
- Nearly 10 new candy “conversation heart” sayings are introduced each year. Recent additions have included “Yeah Right,” “Puppy Love,” and “Call Home.”
- Americans spend around \$277 million on Valentine cards every year, second only to Christmas. Over 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged every year
- The symbol of the ribbon, which often adorns modern-day Valentines, is rooted in the Middle Ages. When knights competed in tournaments, their sweethearts often gave them ribbons for good luck.
- Lace is often used on Valentine decorations. The word “lace” comes from the Latin *laques*, meaning “to snare or net,” as in to catch a person’s heart.
- Valentine’s Day is a \$14.7 billion industry in the U.S.

This Month's Events

Date: February 6
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Freeport Middle School
Administrative Board Meeting

Date: February 11
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Union Office
Local 745 Membership Meeting

Date: February 13
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: Freeport Public Library
District 145 Membership Meeting

Date: February 20
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Freeport Middle School
Administrative Board Meeting

Next Month's Events

Date: March 6
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Freeport Middle School
Administrative Board Meeting

Date: March 11
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Union Office
Local 745 Membership Meeting

Date: March 13
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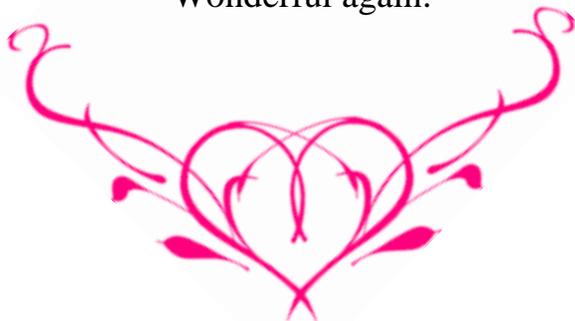
Date: March 20
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Freeport Middle School
Administrative Board Meeting

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMMM Contract 2017 – 2020

- 75¢ Increase per person starting base pay to \$10.74
- Longevity from 1% to 1.5% & Annual base from .5% to 1%. (1% increase)
- \$450/year over 20-30 years, \$750/year over 30 years of service
- \$200.00 Signing Bonus per person
- \$200.00 Increase for our AMRP Approved Medical Reimbursement Plan
- 95 / 5 Medical Insurance
- Personal days and Sick days received July 125
- Discipline can now be removed after the 12th month (not 2 years)

Inspirational

Everyone says that **LOVE** hurts,
but that's not true.
Loneliness hurts, Rejection hurts,
losing someone hurts.
Everyone confuses these things with Love
But really Love is the only thing in this
world that covers up all the pain
and makes us feel
Wonderful again.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Bernard Baker

Bernard was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. He attended college at Cleveland State Univ. in Cleveland, Ohio and from there moved to Chicago, IL where he met his beautiful wife, Gloria. They have been married 13 years and together have 6 daughters; Latrice, Shanice, Anginique, Tanginique, Candinique, Tekeisha, 1 son, Melvin, and 15 grandchildren. Due to circumstances, they recently adopted 3 of their grandchildren. Bernard sees this as a blessing from God. He loves all kids but especially his own and will do anything for his family.

He is a member of St. James Missionary Baptist Church where he sings in the men's choir and serves on the Trustee Board.

His hobbies include cooking, fishing, dancing, and playing games with his grandkids.

He was hired by the Freeport School District in 2006 as Asst. Cook at Freeport Middle School and served as a cashier at Carl Sandburg Middle School for 10 of his 12 years of service. He currently works as a cashier at Freeport Middle School. He has also worked as a Sub Custodian, and is proud to say that his wife, Gloria, also served 11 years with the School District but had to resigned in 2016 due to medical issues. Bernard also served for two years as a GNC member for Local 745. Over the past 12 years, he has enjoyed most serving the kids and being a part of the smile on their face. In spite of all the difficulties he's been handed in his years of service, he is still here because of the kids. It's all about the kids; they are our future.

UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 745
2496 E MAIZE RD
FREEPORT IL 61032

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sheila Fane	Banks-Bergagna	1
Heather Lassandro	Empire	1
Ruth Hattula	Senior High	6
Traci Heitz	Carl Sandburg	7
Jodi Langill	Center	7
Heather Holloway	FMS	10
Diane Pfile	Lincoln Douglas	12
Linda Muller	Blackhawk	23

Friends and Family Discount Program

A Friends and Family Program Discount card can be picked up at the Union office at 2496 E. Maize Road or by contacting a G.N.C. member. Area participating businesses include: Butitta Brothers, CarQuest, Brightflower Nursery, Rock Hollow Conservation Club, Dairy Queen, 4 Seasons Bowling, Loescher Heating, Hampton Inn, Cimino's Little Italy, Art Ross Glass, Amsoil, Carlson Canine Camp, Freeport Quiznos, Auto Logic, and TJ's Truck Accessories.



*Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.*