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 52722
 Permit #26

United Steelworkers Local 105 Forerunner

Local 105 Forerunner
 Issue Date: June 2, 2017 Volume #17 Issue #22 Mailed every 3 weeks

Office	Name
President	Brad Greve
Vice. Pres.	Robert Bartholomew ("Bart")
Guide	Roy Hutt
Rec Sec	Pat Stock
Griev Chair	Josh Meyrer
Fin Sec	Mike Nicholas



Meetings & Events June 2017

6/12	3:00pm	Women of Steel Mtg.
6/15	12 noon	Local 105 Retirees Potluck
6/15	3:30pm	Committeeperson Mtg. E-Board Mtg.
6/19	6 pm	Q-C Fed Delegates Mtg @Local 25
6/20	6:20am	Regular Business Mtg
	7:20am	" " "
	3:20pm	" " "
	6:20pm	" " "
	11:20pm	" " "
6/21	12 noon	Local 105-2 (Sivyer Steel)
	3 pm	Local 105-2 (Sivyer Steel)

All meetings @ USW Local 105 Union Hall Unless designated otherwise



Local 105 and IBEW Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament will be held Thursday, August 10 at Glynn's Creek Golf course near Scott County Park. Entry forms are available at the gates and at the hall and must be turned in by Wed., August 2. Questions? Call Joe Dobesh, at 563 320-1741

June 11: Raising Change for the Dick Fallow Endowment

Join us at the home of Tracy and Dino Leone for an afternoon of hors d'oeuvres, drinks and fun as we hold our first fundraiser/picnic for the Dick Fallow Endowment for Social Justice.

Sunday, June 11 from 3-6pm 9115 Turkey Hollow road, Taylor Ridge, IL RSVP: Tracy 309-738-3196
 Suggested donation: \$25
 Sponsorship Levels:
 Social Justice Warrior: \$500
 Working Class Hero: \$250
 Environment Safe-Guarder: \$100



School Supply Giveaway

The Civil and Human Rights Committee needs backpacks for a back to school, school supply giveaway. The giveaway is to be held on August 19th and is being put together by the Davenport Civil Rights Commission. The most expensive supply is backpacks, which makes them the most difficult to get. Please support this great cause and drop off new or gently used backpacks at the hall. We will give them to the Davenport Civil Rights Commission and they will distribute them.

105 Contest Continues

This week's number for direct deposit users to add to the cents of their deposit amount is 58. If the sum totals 105 you win a free T-shirt

Thanks Received:

"Thank you for the retirement gifts and the union representation over the years." Tom Beck (FSD retiree).

With Deepest Sympathy:

The Family of:
 Rolf Schnack (Rick Schnack's Father)

Website of the Week:

<http://www.airframer.com/>

Airframer is a unique online directory which links aircraft manufacturers and their aircraft programs with suppliers, and analyses these suppliers sector-by-sector.

All searches and up to eight pages of data per month are free-of-charge, and full unrestricted access is available by subscription.

Stop China's Stealth Invasion

<http://www.usw.org/blog/> Posted: May 16, 2017
Leo W. Gerard USW International President

A country claiming the greatest military on earth can't be without some things. Steel is an obvious one.

In the age of drones, aluminum is another. Aluminum is essential for flying machines like the F-35 joint strike fighter and Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet, for armor plating on army vehicles and naval vessels and for countless infrastructure projects including bridges and roads.

Obviously, then, for the United States to retain top ranking, it must protect its aluminum industry. That industry, though, is under a two-pronged stealth attack from China. For more than a decade, the Chinese have ramped up their own aluminum production and dumped the excess on the world market, depressing prices and bankrupting Western producers. Now, a corrupt Chinese company that is under investigation by three U.S. agencies is trying to buy an American aluminum firm. To ensure national security, that must be stopped. America can't be beholden to China for aluminum.

In 2000, China produced only 11 percent of the world's aluminum. Now it's more than 50 percent. Just between 2010 and 2015, China doubled production, even as demand for aluminum within the country slowed. Chinese companies continued to ramp up because they received massive government subsidies, including cheap power, loans and raw materials. That kept Chinese workers employed but created stockpiles of aluminum. So China exported the excess, overwhelming the world market and driving down prices.

This shattered the U.S. industry. In 2000, 23 aluminum smelters operated in the United States. Now there are only five, with just two at full capacity. Thousands of American aluminum workers lost their good, family-supporting jobs in the past three years.

Aluminum producers filed formal complaints with the U.S. Department of Commerce about the illegal subsidies and about Chinese companies dumping products in the United States at prices below production costs. And in 2011, the department penalized Chinese extrusion producers, including one called China Zhongwang, with tariffs as high as 374.15 percent.

With that added cost, China Zhongwang's U.S. sales plunged. Zhongwang, the world's second-largest producer of aluminum extrusions, then schemed to dodge the sanctions, leading to criminal and civil investigations of possible smuggling, conspiracy and wire fraud. The Justice Department, Department of Homeland Security and Commerce Department are all scrutinizing Zhongwang.

Zhongwang and associates are accused of shipping nearly 1 million tons of aluminum to Mexico with the intent of then sending it across the border tariff-free under the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement, as if it had been manufactured in Mexico. Shortly after the aluminum trade association discovered this massive stash, amounting to 6 percent of the world's aluminum inventory, much of it was whisked away to Vietnam, another country notorious for involvement in what is called transshipment, that is, concealing commodities' country of origin to evade tariffs.

In addition, the U.S. Aluminum Extruders Council accused Zhongwang and companion companies of another plot to skirt tariffs. Firms associated with Liu Zhongtian, a Chinese billionaire who controls

Zhongwang, shipped thousands of tons of pallets made of aluminum extrusions to a factory in a Philadelphia suburb.

These "pallets," which weighed more than three times American-made aluminum pallets, escaped tariffs specific to extrusions because, supposedly, they were pallets. Pallets, typically though, are designed to be light to reduce shipping costs.

Company officials contended the heavyweight pallets made from extrusions were to be sold as pallets, not dismantled or melted for other uses. Shortly after the Wall Street Journal began asking questions about them, though, they disappeared. Just like the \$2 billion worth of aluminum in Mexico.

The Commerce Department wasn't fooled by this sleight of hand. In November, it announced that the pallets were an attempt to circumvent the 2011 tariffs on extrusions.

Even while Zhongwang remains under investigation, it announced plans to buy American aluminum company Aleris for \$2.3 billion from a private equity firm. Aleris, with 14 plants around the world, makes rolled aluminum for a variety of industries, including aerospace and automotive, and significantly, armor plate for the U.S. military.

The U.S. military cannot be dependent on a Chinese-owned company to outfit American armored vehicles or meet other critical needs. In November, a dozen U.S. senators asked Obama's treasury secretary to block the deal because it would "directly undermine our national security, including by jeopardizing the U.S. manufacturing base for sensitive technologies." My union, the United Steelworkers (USW), which has 950 members employed at Aleris, also has repeatedly protested the proposed sale, including in a letter sent last week to new Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

It would be far too easy for Zhongwang to appropriate Aleris' trade secrets, then run the company into the ground, further cementing China's illegally-subsidized domination of the world aluminum market. Zhongwang could also exploit Aleris operations to circumvent U.S. tariffs. Based on past performance, that would be no surprise.

The U.S. government has taken important steps toward protecting the crucial American aluminum industry. Before he left office in January, former President Obama launched a formal complaint with the W.T.O. against the Chinese government over its subsidies to the aluminum industry.

In March, the Commerce Department began investigating complaints that Beijing illegally subsidized aluminum foil shipped to the United States by 230 Chinese companies.

Last month, the Trump administration initiated an inquiry into the effect of aluminum imports on U.S. national security, which could lead to tariffs or import restrictions. But it's not Canada or some other allied country causing the problem. It's China.

And just last week, the Senate confirmed Robert Lighthizer as U.S. trade representative. He has railed against America's comatose response to abusive Chinese trade practices that have bankrupted American industries and killed American jobs. That includes dirty tricks like creating pallets out of extrusions and transshipping from Mexico and Vietnam.

Lighthizer assured the Senate he intended to firmly enforce trade law. That's good because he must stop China's stealth invasion before it overcomes the entire U.S. aluminum industry.