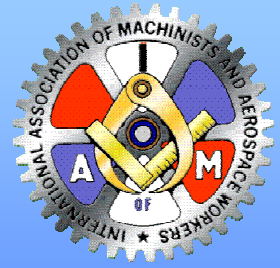


LL839 Machinists Matters

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July 2011



President's Corner

July 2011

By Kathy Petersen

July 4th is our country's celebration of its independence from Great Britain. It is somewhat ironic that we celebrate our independence from England by shooting off fireworks which, for the most part, are made in China, so maybe this is a good time to stop and think about our purchasing habits.

If you are like me, you don't have a whole lot of time to spend at the grocery store reading labels, but considering the massive outsourcing of American jobs to Mexico and other countries, I believe it is time for us to start paying attention to where products are made and to support American manufacturers.

You may have heard the story of how Hershey Foods Corporation abandoned its hometown in Pennsylvania, also closed plants in California, Connecticut and Canada, and transferred production of its candies to Mexico. Even though Hershey was making money, stock prices were rising, and CEO Richard Lenny's salary was \$4.7 million (not counting his stock options) in 2002, he felt the need to save the company money by moving production to Mexico "where labor costs were 90 percent cheaper and sugar prices were low." Reportedly, the Mexican production facility in Monterrey will be paying their workers about \$2.77 per hour.

Why should we care where products are made? Aside from the economic issue of outsourcing American jobs, there is also an issue of safety. Remember the poisoned pet food scare awhile back? Seafood laced with potentially dangerous antibiot-

ics? Toothpaste tainted with a toxic ingredient used in antifreeze? Recalls of cheap jewelry containing lead and cadmium? Toys painted with lead paint?

The frustrating part of trying to buy American is that manufacturers are not very forthcoming in their product labeling. Some labels do not tell you where the product was made. They will say "distributed by" or "packaged by" or "a product of" such and such company while failing to provide any information about where the item was actually manufactured. Read carefully and don't get fooled. So what is still made in the U.S.A.? Here's a brief list of some items, and please check out the websites listed below for additional information, or just do a Google search for American made products.

Russell Stover and Whitmans candy (their label says "proudly made in America")

See's Famous Old Time Candies

Necco Wafers, Sweethearts, Conversation Hearts & Clark Bars

Penn tennis balls

Bicycle playing cards

Harley Davidson motorcycles

L.L. Bean clothing

Red Wing shoes; Allen Edmonds shoes; Weinbrenner shoes

New Balance shoes (some styles only – some are made in China)

Wigwam Mills socks

Benjamin Moore and Sherwin-Williams paints

Longaberger Company baskets

Presidents Corner cont. Pg 2

Presidents Corner Continued

Hunter Douglas window coverings; Pella windows

La-Z-Boy furniture; Norwalk furniture; Ethan Allen furniture

Thomas Moser furniture; Hooker and Co. furniture

Sealy Mattresses; Simmons Bedding Co.; Tempur-Pedic mattresses

Regal Ware kitchen products; Nordic Ware kitchen products

Homer Laughlin China's Fiestaware

KitchenAid mixers; Viking stoves; Weber grills

Little Tikes toys; Slinky toys; K'Nex toys

Louisville Slugger baseball bats

Riedell skates (roller skates & ice skates)

Burt's Bees cosmetics

Kimberly-Clark paper products

Oreck vacuums

Check out these websites:

madeinamericaclothing.com

madeinusajeans.com

unionmade.com

unionlabel.com

unionhouse.com

theunionbootpro.com

unionplus.org/union-made/beers

abcnews.go.com/WN/MadeinAmerica/

I believe that if we patronize American companies that are still manufacturing their products in America, we can not only help save existing jobs but also create new ones. Supply and demand. If we create the demand for more products made in American factories, then more Americans will be hired to meet that demand. Buy American, and wherever possible buy Union Made/Union Label products. Let's do our part to keep American jobs in America!

What's to come from your Editor...

Having just celebrated our Countries Independence Day, the day in which we declared our freedom from Britain, and the day we adopted the Declaration of Independence, I thought it would be interesting to see how much money we give to foreign countries with some of the things we purchase on the United States of America's big day. For instance did you know that we spent 3.2 million dollars on U.S. flags in the year 2010? Of that 3.2 million 2.8 million went to China. That's right, we buy an American flag to fly outside our home, and the proceeds from that flag go to a country that does not support the very things it represents! You know all those pretty fireworks we like to watch and blow up, well we as Americans spent 197.3 million dollars on fireworks last year of that, 190.7 million dollars went to China.

Next month I'm going to start talking to you more about these issues and others that face Americans, and hopefully you will take these issues seriously when you go to the polls next year. I'm going to talk about the four deficits our country currently

faces. We have a trade deficit; we are importing more than we are exporting, and consuming more than we are producing. I'm going to talk about our savings deficit, how we are coming up way too short on the savings end of the bank. I'm going to talk about our budget deficit of course, this is the one that we all hear about, and then I'm going to talk about our leadership deficit. Why aren't there any leaders standing up, and fighting for our country? What I fear most is that we will soon become the United States of China, or that China and Japan are going to call in the note. We are currently in the situation where we cannot pay the interest on the loans we have taken out with these countries. That is why we are currently in talks of raising the debt ceiling right now. I'm going to talk to you about the dangers of raising the debt ceiling, and the nightmare that will be if we don't raise the debt ceiling. I hope this series of articles will motivate you to write to your Representatives: We the people, they must not forget that. .

District 70 Report

By Becky Ledbetter

Brothers and Sister, once again it has been a busy month here at the District. We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable 4th of July. We would like to thank everyone who is currently serving, or has served our Country in the military. It is because of you that we can enjoy our holiday and our freedom.

Sister Rita Rogers and I were talking last week and she said something very profound to me. She said that she was so proud to be union and that our fathers, grandfathers, and ancestors fought and some even died for our collective bargaining rights. It was in their hearts and in their blood.

Brother Tony Larkin said if the truth be known labor movements were the first civil rights movement in our country. It is also the reason that we have an American middle class. Before the labor movement, we faced the same exploitation of workers that our companies are now participating in by sending our work overseas. These workers are being exploited with low wages, long hours no benefits, and unsafe working conditions. These are the same practices that took place here in America before the labor movement. The labor movement made companies accountable and brought respect and dignity to the workplace.

Steve Groom is reminded of the recent staff conference where organizing efforts are ongoing. Any help with these efforts would be appreciated. We do appreciate Local Lodge 839 and all our members at every local. Remember, we are all one union!

Marion is a shop steward in transportation first shift. He has worked for Spirit and Boeing for a combined 27 years. Marion became shop steward three months ago when Gary Stone gave up his badge. He is very proud of his 100% Union Shop and wanted to shout it from the roof tops. Marion says "Our union has its faults just like any other organization but it's a must have because without it we wouldn't have the things we have today because of sacrifices our brothers and sister have made in the past." When asked what advice he has for other members and non-members regarding our new contract he stated "Ten years is a long time, our good insurance is our raise, people need to understand that, even though we did get a general wage increase and it's paid as a lump sum rather than rolled into our wages, our raise was our good insurance and our job security."

Meet Marion Carlson Shop Steward over Transportation shop 1472



Marion has four kids, and six grandkids. Marion and his wife reside in Kechi Kansas the antique capitol of the world where they have lived the last eight years. Marion started in aircraft in 1979 at Cessna Aircraft and was a faithful Union member there until 1984, when he left Cessna to work for Boeing. When hired at Boeing as a sheet-metal mechanic in MOD he joined the Union immediately and has been a member ever since. In 1996 he moved to transportation taking care of IPB1, Plant II, all the north buildings, and light sub assemblies.

New Members for June 2011

Jason Backes
 Terry D. Cline
 Shaun Houser
 Andrew M. Klein
 Rumaldo Longoria
 Eric A. Morris
 Quang Thanh Nguyen
 Javier Salas
 Dave E. Strubhar
 Larry V. Vasquez

Corey R. Cainelli
 Kiet Tuan Dao
 Robert Howard
 Scott Koester
 Thomas L. Maus
 Cindy M. Nave
 Gregory Polite
 Phyllis Schafer
 Roddy E. Trammell
 Kobe Xayavongsa

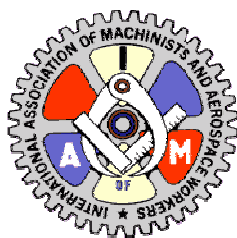
Chris Childrey
 Michael E. Farris
 Bradley Hubbard
 Shannon Lashay
 Kevin Moore
 Andy H. Nguyen
 Shawn Rigsbee
 Jason Schmeidler
 Skylar Travis

**International Association of Machinists
 and Aerospace Workers**

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 Fax: (316) 529-1277**



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Monthly Union Meetings

**2nd Saturday of the Month
 Executive Board meets at 8:00 AM
 Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM**

**President - Kathy Petersen
 Vice President - Brent Allen
 Recording Secretary - Larry Stafford
 Treasurer - Joni Pierce
 Conductor/Sentinel - Jeff Meis
 Trustees - Susan Hiebert, Stan Chapman
 Christopher Phillips
 Communicator - Dennis Williams
 Educator - Roger Stamback
 1st Shift In-Plant Rep. - David Eagle
 2nd Shift In-Plant Rep. - Howard "HoJo" Johnson
 Editor - Jarrod Lehman**

We are the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. We belong to Local Lodge 839 of District 70 in Wichita Kansas. We represent the Fighting Machinists of Spirit AeroSystems. We work to give our members a voice on the job.
 Visit our website often at www.ll839.org for helpful and timely information.
 If you have any questions, contact one of your In-Plant Representatives at 524-1090.
 If you have any articles you want published, e-mail the Editor at jlehman@ll839.org.
 The opinions expressed in any articles are the opinions of that author not the representatives of LL839
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