

UNION HALL
PHONE EXTENSIONS

After dialing 233-3049, wait for the greeting to finish, then dial one of the following extensions.

- 110 Secretary, Anne Dotzler
- 111 Secretary, Sandy Bakker
- 114 DSS Chairman, Mike Bauler
- 115 EW Chairman, Matt Hovey
- 116 WAS Chairman, Tim Niedert
- 117 President, Paul Jungen II
- 118 Financial Sec., Dave Weber
- 119 EAP Chairman, Gary Wood
- 121 Unity/Pioneer Editor's Office
- 122 Pension Office
- 123 Recording Sec., Scott Frye

Information Changes:

Please contact the front office of the Union Hall, or send an e-mail to:

adotzler@uaw838.com
sbakker@uaw838.com

UAW 838 Hours:

7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

DEERE DIRECT

1-888-432-3373

INSURANCE

UnitedHealthcare

1-888-533-3731

www.myuhc.com

VISION

UnitedHealthcare Vision

1-888-533-3731

www.myuhc.com

PHARMACY

Medco

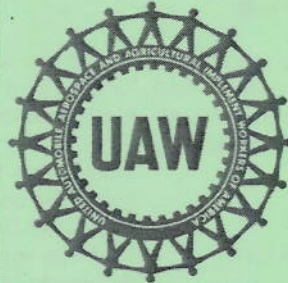
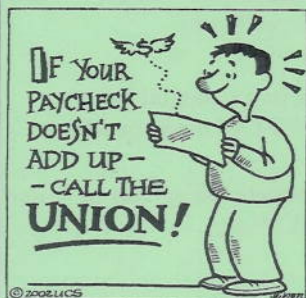
1-877-894-6133

ELECTION RESULTS

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
DISTRIBUTION OF THE VOTES
WAS AS FOLLOWS:

(*) INDICATES WINNER

1. Terrence Ryan D/649 487*
2. Josh Johnson D/593 467



Local 838

UNITY



Serving the Membership Since 1941

Surging China costs turn some U.S. makers homeward

Tue Jun 28 17:59:49 UTC 2011

By Scott Malone

MILWAUKEE (Reuters) - On a recent morning at Master Lock's 90-year-old factory in Milwaukee, a cluster of machinery was whirring, every 2 seconds spitting out one of the combination locks used by American high schoolers as the company readied for the back-to-school rush. The seven-day-a-week, three-shift-per-day whirlwind of activity marked a change from two years ago, when the machine normally ran for just a few hours a day because the unit of Fortune Brands Inc was ordering more padlocks from suppliers in China instead of making them.

Why move production from the world's low-cost workshop back to a unionized U.S. factory where wages are six times higher than in China? Efficiency: The machine in Milwaukee is about 30 times as fast as the Chinese factories the company had been buying from, more than making up for the difference in wages.

"I can manufacture combination locks in Milwaukee for less of a cost than I can in China," said Bob Rice, a senior vice president at the largest U.S. padlock manufacturer.

The factory has added about 78 workers over the past two years, boosting its workforce to 440.

That is a small bit of good news for the long-suffering U.S. manufacturing sector, which shed about 2 million jobs, or some 14.6 percent of its employees, in the last recession. It has not recovered since and now employs 11.7 million people, down 34,000 from the recession's official end in June 2009.

Master Lock is not alone. General Electric Co and Boeing Co are also part of the small group of U.S. companies that are boosting production at their U.S. factories.

A variety of factors are driving the shift, including rising wages in parts of Asia, surging fuel prices and the complexity of transporting goods across the Pacific.

ECONOMIC IRONY

"What you're starting to see is the economics shifting more into the United States' favor regarding sourcing from the United States versus sourcing from a low-cost country," said Daniel Meckstroth, chief economist at the Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI, a Washington trade group.

There is an element of irony here. The United States' sluggish economic recovery, coming at a time when emerging economies including China and India are enjoying brisk growth, is helping its manufacturers to close the cost gap on their foreign rivals.

China's inflation rate hit 5.5 percent in May, well ahead of the United States' 3.6 percent headline rate. With Chinese wages rising at 15 to 20 percent per year, the labor costs of manufacturing in the two countries could pull even by 2015, a Boston Consulting Group study predicted in May.

Rising oil prices, which drive up the cost of shipping goods by boat or plane, are also eating in to China's edge.

Automation also helps tilt the balance toward the United States. Bruce Crass, the Master Lock plant's general manager, estimated that his plant -- where the average worker oversees the operation of six high-speed machines -- produces 24,000 locks a day with about one-sixth the number of workers needed by the company's Chinese suppliers and rivals.

Master Lock today makes about 55 percent of its padlocks in North America -- in Milwaukee and at a satellite location in Nogales, Mexico -- with the rest made in China. That is down from a 50-50 split two years ago.

To be sure, these companies are the exception in the U.S. economy, where businesses from Apple Inc to Nike Inc focus on design and marketing, leaving production to independent contractors

Attention!

UNION MEETING

July 16th, at
9:00 a.m.

Deere Unit Meeting
will follow.

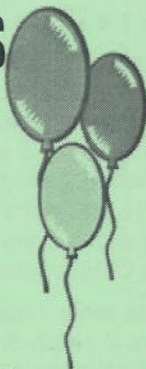
The Steward's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13th at the Union Hall.

The Pension Committee will be at the Union Hall on Thursday, July 14th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Friday, July, 15th from 7:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The Thursday night meeting starts promptly at 6:00 p.m. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

RETIREMENT PARTIES

Dave Weber
Friday,
July 22nd
3pm - 9pm



Parties are at the
UAW Hall,
2615 Washington Street
Waterloo, Iowa

Members in good standing may post their retirement parties held at locations other than the hall.

Thank You

Thank you to all of my fellow brothers and sisters for the hard work and support during this last election. This was a learning experience as will be the next 3 years representing us all.

Mike Oberhauser, Dept. 147

The Family of Dale Ruroden thanks Local 838 for their kindness.

Thank you Local 838 for the beautiful Lily plant sent at my mother's passing. Thanks for all the support.

Jim Marx, D/467

The Marx & Wilson Family

The Family of Dennis Dallenbach would like to thank UAW local 838 for the Bible in the gift box. Also, thank you to the members for the kind words and support.

Brian Thorp, D/684

Dan Distler, D/711

Terry Distler, D/712

Jason Azbill, D/426

Tom Dallenbach

Thank you for sending the beautiful flowers to Hershel's funeral. Your kind thoughts are greatly appreciated.

Betty Roberts

Thank you for the lovely Bible. We will cherish it.

Mildred Hillehiem

Thank you to Local 838 & Dept. 451 for your kind support at the loss of my grandmother.

Mark Ambrose, D/451

Thank you for the Holy Bible and wooden keepsake box. "Curly" "Doc" Blanchard was a dedicated Deere union worker at the Westfield site and Engine Works and later as a tour guide at the Engine Works.

Anne Blanchard (wife)

Craig Blanchard (son, PEC) and Family

Local 838, The family of Dorothy Beenken would like to thank you for the beautiful peace lily plant sent in respect of her recent passing. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated at such an unexpected family event.

Bruce Bascom, Dept. 624

Julie and I would like to thank everyone for the many cards and gifts we received for the injuries our son Zach sustained while serving this great country in Afghanistan. The best that you gave, were the many prayers that have been granted so far for his quick and total recovery. He is not there yet, but on his way. If it were not for all the gifts from my union brothers and sisters, this difficult time would have been even worse. So, we can not thank you enough and God bless every one of you.

Curt and Julie Schick

Union Made



FOOD

Aunt Jemima
Cattlemen's
Colonial Salt
Diamond Crystal Salt
Durkee
French's
Guldens Mustard
Heinz Catsup
Hidden Valley Ranch
Hormel
JIF Peanut Butter
Monterey Mushrooms
Morton Salts
Mrs. Butterworth's
Open Pit
Peanut Butter Crunch
Sysco Salt
Vlasic

HOUSEHOLD

Ajax
All
Borateem
Boraxo
Clorox
Combat Pest Controllers
D-Con
Dan River Bedding
Dynamo
Ecolab Products
EZ-Drain
Liquid Plumber
Lysol
Minwax
Palmolive
Soft Scrub
Tide Soap
Wisk

PET

9 Lives
Anchor
Boehringer Ingelheim
Vetmedica, Inc.
Fresh Step
Friskies
Litter Green
Sanderson Farms
Science Diet
Skippy
Wayne Farms

This is just a partial list of many UFCW made products.

A Complete listing can be found at UFCW.org

HOME DEPOT ACCUSED OF VIOLATING BUY AMERICAN ACT

By PAUL ELIAS - Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The photograph on Home Depot's website shows a line of smiling soldiers unloading a truck stacked with power tools and other company wares.

The company says this shows "federal dollars go farther at The Home Depot." San Francisco Attorney Paul Scott says the photo also shows the company providing Chinese-made products in violation of the Buy American Act, and the U.S. Department of Justice is investigating.

A federal judge in April refused Home Depot Inc.'s bid to toss a whistleblower lawsuit Scott and other attorneys filed against the Atlanta-based company. Now the country's largest home improvement retailer is the latest company accused of running afoul of the Buy American Act, a 1933 law aimed at protecting U.S. jobs. The law requires that all materials used in construction of public projects originate in the United States or "designated countries."

Like most protectionist trade provisions, the Buy American Act has its supporters and detractors.

Proponents support the act as a way to boost the economy and preserve U.S. jobs. Critics complain the law limits the government's ability to make the best purchase on price and quality. Further, they argue that complying with the letter of the law is difficult, given the many exemptions and the reality that the component parts of many products originate in multiple countries. In addition, the law's critics say it's especially difficult for large companies such as Home Depot that carry thousands of products to ensure it follows the law with every government transaction.

The law has been through many revisions, and trade agreements with Canada, Israel and several other countries allow for use of material made in those countries. In the decades after its enactment, the law was little used. But with the explosion of international trade a number of companies have been accused of violating the Buy American Act over the last several years.

Earlier this year, the national hardware distributor Fastenal Co. agreed to pay \$6.25 million to resolve DOJ claims made after a government audit found among other things that it violated its contract with the General Services Administration by providing Chinese-made goods.

Fastenal said in a statement that it settled because "we continue to believe that we complied with our obligation under the GSA contract in all material respects. However, we felt a continuation of our dispute with the DOJ and GSA was not the best use of our resources."

In the last six years, Staples Inc., Office Depot Inc. and OfficeMax Inc. have paid a combined \$22 million to settle government claims they violated the act. In 2008, the Department of Justice announced that W.W. Grainger Inc. agreed to pay \$6 million to settle claims the company overcharged the government and provided it with Chinese and Taiwanese products in violation of the Buy American Act.

At issue in the Home Depot case are GSA "schedule" contracts. Those contracts authorize any government agency to purchase tens of thousands of products from the company's website.

The lawsuit alleges that up to half of those products are made in China and other non-designated countries. The lawsuit was filed by two employees of another government contractor in 2008 that claimed their employer, the Actus Lend Lease Co., supplied noncompliant material in several military housing projects.

Before Actus was dropped from the case this year after paying an undisclosed amount of money to settle, lawyers discovered allegations that one of its corporate partners — Home Depot — was also violating the law.

The two Actus employees initially filed the so-called whistleblower lawsuit under seal, as all such claims on behalf of the government are filed. That gives the DOJ a chance to investigate the claims and decide if it wants to take over the lawsuit, which seeks to recover damages on behalf of the government.

All damages recovered are split between the government and the plaintiffs filing the lawsuit, with the government always receiving a larger amount.

Last year, the judge denied the government's request to keep the lawsuit under seal so it could continue its investigation.

After the lawsuit was made public, Home Depot asked the judge to dismiss the case, noting the government's non-intervention in the case. In March, federal prosecutors fired back at Home Depot with a court filing stating that it "would be erroneous to assume that the government's lack of intervention reflects its conclusion that the case lacks merit."

The DOJ continues to investigate the issue and still has not decided whether to join the case.

In court filings and a brief interview, Home Depot officials argue they have complied fully with the terms of the contract and the Buy American Act.

"We would never knowingly sell prohibited goods under any circumstances, and we have been cooperating with the government to provide requested information," said Home Depot spokesman Stephen Holmes. "We believe the plaintiffs have an inaccurate view of the facts, so we look forward to presenting our side of this case as the process moves forward."

A judge has scheduled a trial for early next year.

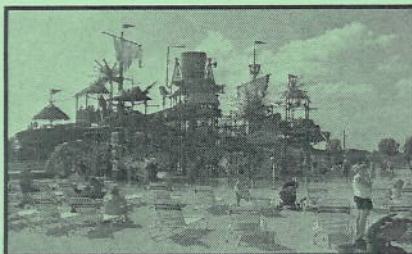
Passages

Calvin C. Curtis	
Hired	02-05-51
Retired	09-30-83
Deceased	06-24-11
Alyn J. Wohlert	
Hired	09-21-60
Retired	12-31-91
Deceased	06-26-11
Roger R. Fink	
Hired	02-01-66
Retired	08-18-94
Deceased	06-25-11
Eugene G. Tyler	
Hired	07-30-56
Retired	04-30-87
Deceased	06-30-11

Adventureland Tickets

Tickets are available at the Union Hall. Ticket prices are \$26.00 each. This is a savings

of \$9.00 for adult tickets, 10 years and older, and a savings of \$4.00 for children, 4-9 years old. Children 3 and under are free.



Don't forget- Adventure Bay water park is included with admission to Adventureland. Two complete parks for one low price!



UAW Night at the Ballpark

July 9th @ 6:35 p.m.
Gates open at 5:00 p.m.

Get tickets from your committeeman or at the union hall.

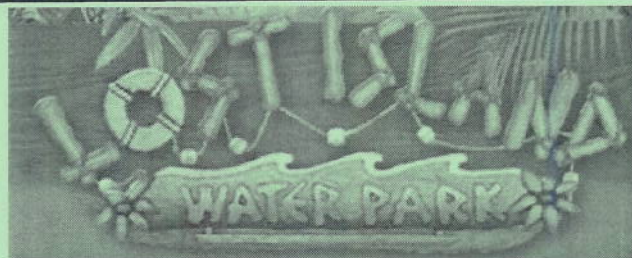


Fireworks show following the game!!



Bring the family to a great night of fun

See you there



July 30th

John Deere Iowa Island Getaway at Lost Island Water Park

Where: Lost Island Water Park
2225 East Shaulis Rd, Waterloo

Cost: \$17 (includes lunch)
Children 3 and under are free.

Savings per person = \$14.48 (\$7.48 for the ticket and \$7 for lunch)!

Additional Information: JDWEN and WomenREACH are sponsoring a Lost Island Water Park event. The event is open to all John Deere employees (wage, salary, and part-time students) and their immediate family. Lunch is included in the ticket price. Tickets are only available until **July 19th**.

Contact: Visit <http://jdonline.deere.com/wwag/waterloo/JDWEN/index.html> for more details and ordering instructions

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A word about deadlines: **UNITY** is published weekly. In order to have the most current information possible, the information needs to be in the Editor's hands by the TUESDAY of every week. This will allow time for placement of your item. Space is limited, therefore your submission may not be included in that week's publication. If you have calendar information, it needs to be here on time! Word documents in an e-mail is the best way to submit information.

Editor this issue:
Jeff Bumgardner Bergman

Article Submissions: Editor@uaw838.com

