

# The Final Etch

May 20th, 2024, Volume I, Issue III.

IUE-CWA Local 82162, (540) 562-9620, local82162.org

MEETING TIMES  
EVERY FIRST THURSDAY

7:15am 3:15pm

1:00pm 6:15pm

8224 Shadwell Dr, Roanoke, VA 24019



Wage increase won by our union brothers and sisters in the UAW and Teamsters:

UAW: +25%

Teamsters: +32%

*What would that look like here?*

\*Number is derived as an average of the above percentages

IUE-CWA (Us): +28.5%\*

\$34.87 Labor Grade 1 → \$44.80  
+28.5%

\$28.12 Labor Grade 3 → \$36.13  
+28.5%

\$26.31 Labor Grade 5 → \$33.81  
+28.5%

Updates/Events from the Western Virginia Labor Federation

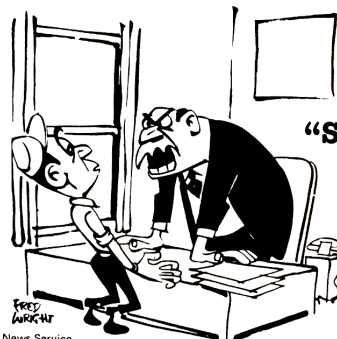
- June 8th - Union Night at Salem Red Sox Baseball Stadium, \$15 a ticket, reimbursed night of.
- July 4th - Labor float at the Blacksburg July 4th parade in support of the UCW.
- September 2nd - Labor Day float in Roanoke

## Committee Reports

Safety Committee

- If a safety hazard has been left unaddressed in your area, please alert your shop steward and/or a representative of the Safety Committee
- An OSHA 10 class for members is currently in the works.

*There will be important information given at the next few union hall meetings. It is critical that all members attend. The next union hall meeting is scheduled for June 6th.*



UF News Service

# Perspective from a Member: Kay Ragland

## How unified was the union going into the last strike in 2003?

Our union was so different then. You're talking about unified. I'm telling you, there was a guy named Wilbur. He got liver disease and was trying to get money raised for the UVA. And everybody was giving donations. Everybody around. Well, our company refused to give him any donations. They turned around and ordered a \$3,000 catered dinner for 1,000 employees. So Red Adams was President then. He said, "No one go to the dinner. No one." So all of a sudden management is calling him because nobody is going. And they said, "We're going to have to pay for this food even though it's not eaten, you know, what is going on?" He said, if you can't come up with money for a guy that's dying, then this is what you get in your face. They ended up giving \$25,000 after that.

We just showed that we had each other's backs. Like, we would all wear red shirts to the Communication meetings the company has, even if it was a Monday. At the negotiation table, someone from the company told us if we didn't like their offer, we could all go work at Burger King.

We all bought Burger King hats and wore them to the first communication meeting back and all over the plant. I think the guy that said that got fired after contract. You don't sit at a union table and say, well, if y'all don't like this, y'all can all go work at Burger King. And you don't realize that's going to come back to bite you.

## What did it look like on the floor in the lead up to the strike?

Before then we had the stickers going. We had shirts going. If they couldn't afford the shirts, we'd buy our own shirts. And everybody was just talking about, hey, if you need anything while we're out, I'm here for you.

Management was scared. My supervisor at the time, he said, "I'll see you Monday". They were even asking for overtime. I said, "We'll be out for at least six weeks." He said, "No, you won't."

We emptied out all our lockers, took our boxes. Jeff Moran called down to the plant and told us that it was like contract 'fore last, they're not dealing with us here. It was one o'clock. We went up and down the hall and opened every locker in the hall. Management came by and said, "What's going on, Kay?" I said, "Oh, we're just cleaning out our lockers for Saturday." That was right before the next meeting was meant to happen at the hotel with the company, and they called down and said, "Whatever they want, give it to them." Well I guess they still didn't want to, but they were intimidated for sure.

When we came back, he told us he had to empty the trash for six weeks because there weren't any porters. I said, "Hey, we got you Martin Luther King Day", because what we got, they got, and that's one of the things we got that time.

I'd say it definitely made us stronger as a union. Everyone standing up for each other, looking out for each other, yeah.



Have a submission for the newsletter? Fill out the form on the Union's website by scanning the QR code here:



*Members of the Newsletter Committee:*

*Brian King, Trey Brown, Johnathan Dogan, Brian Jefferson, and Jennifer Webb*