



UNITED STEELWORKERS

Local Union No. 745

2496 E. Maize Road
Freeport, IL 61032
(815) 235-9713
Fax: (815) 232-7762

“Building Blocks of Solidarity”

Representing the members of:

Titan Tire Corporation, Freeport, IL
Classified Unit of Freeport School District 145
Valspar Paint, Rockford, IL

United Steelworkers (USW) Local 745 has been recognized by the federal government since 1964 as the exclusive representing agent for hourly employees at the tire plant in Freeport, Illinois. This facility was built by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in 1963, and currently covers 1.35 million square feet of floor space. Titan Tire owns three (3) plants in Freeport, Illinois; Des Moines, Iowa, and Bryan, Ohio. The Freeport plant is serviced by USW Local 745 and has approximately 500 members.

Since 1998, Local 745 has also been the exclusive bargaining agent for the classified staff of the Freeport Public School District 145. The classified staff consists of teacher's aides, food service employees, security monitors and instructional materials technicians. This unit maintains a structure of representatives to provide assistance to its members in 11 different facilities throughout the City of Freeport. This Unit has approximately 150 members.

On April 1, 2014, Valspar Paint of Rockford, Illinois joined Local 745. This Unit has approximately 50 members.

These units have a Unit Chairperson, Unit Secretary, and three additional members who make up the Grievance and Negotiating Committee. These positions are all subject to secret ballot election at the same time as other Union officers.

The operation of your Union is the responsibility of each and every member. As a member of Local 745, you have a voice in how the Local conducts business. On the second Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m., the regular membership meeting convenes in the Union office building located at 2496 East Maize Road, Freeport. It is at this monthly membership meeting the membership decides by majority vote the Local's position on matters pertaining to its members. The right of membership in Local 745 is one that should not be taken lightly. Each member is urged to attend the regular monthly membership meeting.

YOUR OFFICERS

The administration of your Union's business is entrusted to officers you elect every three years. These officers include the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Guide, Guard, and Board of Trustees. The Executive Officers of Local 745 are the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer.

The **President** of Local 745 is responsible for strict enforcement of the International Constitution, the Local Union By-laws, and the Collective Bargaining Agreement. He/she resides as chairman of the Executive Board and Grievance and Negotiating Committee. He/she appoints members to all Local Union Committees. He/she also manages the administration of the office and other Local affairs.

The **Vice-President** assists the President in the discharge of his duties and assumes the President's duties in the event of his/her absence.

The **Recording Secretary** of your Local Union keeps the minutes of the monthly membership meeting and the Executive Board meetings. He/she also keeps records of members attending membership meetings.

The **Financial Secretary** receives money due to the Local Union and keeps the accounts of the Local Union. He/she shall have the books open for examination by the Trustees and make a detailed report each month detailing the receipts and expenditures of all funds of the Local Union.

The **Treasurer** shall receive monies due to the Local Union from the Financial Secretary and deposit such funds and shall sign all checks and have those checks countersigned by the President and Financial Secretary. The Treasurer's accounts shall be open for examination by the Trustees and he/she shall report monthly to amounts of monies received, the total checks issued and the balance of the account.

The **Guide** shall ensure that all present at membership meetings are entitled to remain.

The **Guards** shall take charge of the door at membership meetings to see that no person enters who is not entitled to do so.

The **Trustees** shall have charge of the Union office and shall audit the books and financial records of the Local Union.

The **Executive Board** is empowered to take any action the membership can take, plus whatever action it deems necessary prior to the

regular monthly membership meeting. The Executive Board of Local 745 is made up of eleven members, of which five are the Executive Officers.

Specific duties and obligations of the Local 745 Officers are contained in Article V, Section 1 through 10 of the International By-laws and in Article V, Section 1 through 10 of Local 745 By-laws.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Your local union office is located at 2496 East Maize Road, Freeport. This 3,800 square foot facility serves as a meeting hall for membership and special meetings, and also contains the administrative offices. Our current building provides an efficient, modern environment for offering services to all active and retired members and their families. In addition, this office serves to provide assistance to laid off members. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding Holidays). The telephone number is (815) 235-9713. A message may be left at the same number after business hours.

The building houses offices for the Local President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and the Employee Benefits Representative.

The Employee Benefits office assists members in securing benefits under various agreements on medical, dental, and life insurance, retirement programs, and supplemental unemployment benefits. In addition, the representative may advise members on involvement with state worker's compensation laws, social security and unemployment compensation laws.

The Local has a full time Office Manager whose responsibilities include receptionist, secretarial and general membership assistance. Clerical duties include computer operation, organizing business related correspondence and the maintenance of a host of records and files.

Working with the President in the enforcement of the Collective Bargaining Agreement is the *Grievance and Negotiating Committee*. Although the members of this Committee are not officers of your local union, they are an integral part of the operation of your Local. This committee consists of five members which include the President and Vice-President. The specific duties of the Grievance and Negotiating Committee are included in Article V, Section 11 of the Local Union By-laws. Members are elected to this committee every three years.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The *Safety & Health Committee* of your Local Union works to promote the health and safety of all members and carry out the duties at all

three facilities that Local 745 represents. Presently, the Committee consists of a chairperson from each of the three shifts and an overall committee coordinator.

The **Publicity & Education Committee** of your Local Union is empowered to promote and encourage participation of the membership in broad educational programs. This committee also assists with publication of the Local Union paper.

The **Entertainment Committee** conducts all the social affairs and entertainment held by your Local Union.

Members of the Local Union **By-laws Committee** meet when necessary to consider changes or additions to the Local's By-laws or standing rules.

Your Local Union **Political Action Committee (PAC)** keeps membership informed on state and federal legislation affecting union members. They also inform legislators that represent our membership of any position Local 745 takes on legislation affecting our membership. These viewpoints are passed on either through correspondence with the legislators or through face-to-face contact. The members of this Committee also urge our members to buy union products made only in America.

Your Local Union **Civil Rights Committee** works in promoting the rights of all to fair employment regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin.

The **Rapid Response Committee** is empowered to communicate and educate the membership on local and national events throughout the world.

The **Northwest Illinois Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO** is a committee where members from your Local Union work to participate in all activities of the Freeport Council for the betterment of labor conditions and affairs of the community as a whole.

Members of your Local Union **Building Committee** are responsible for the care and maintenance of all Local 745 property. This committee also advises the Local Union on the purchase or erecting of any building that the Local may be considering.

The purpose of your **Skilled Trades Committee** is to assist the Grievance and Negotiating Committee with the unique concerns and problems of maintenance division members. This committee meets regularly with management representatives to openly discuss maintenance division issues.

To assure an accurate and more complete perspective on maintenance issues, the *Skilled Trades Assistance Committee*, consisting of one member from each of the three shifts, has been established to work with the Skilled Trades Committee.

The Local Union *Workers' Compensation Committee*, which includes your Benefit Representative, advises and assists Local Union members in matters pertaining to workmen's compensation, social security, unemployment, pension, insurance and supplemental unemployment benefits.

Your Local Union *Organizing Committee* assists in any organizing efforts as deemed appropriate by the Local Union President and approved by the Local Union Executive Board. The benefits of organizing working people and establishing Unions are of the utmost important to this committee.

Your *Employee Assistance Committee* consists of union members and management members. These individuals are responsible for establishing procedures and screening clients for the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP's primary purpose is to help employees and their dependents who suffer from alcohol/chemical dependency. However, contract negotiations have broadened the scope of our EAP to many other areas of employee concern.

The *Women's Committee* will address issues to enhance the ability of women to participate more directly in the life of the Union. The Committee will assist in involving women in political action, organizing, gender related issues, equality and other Union initiatives.

MISCELLANEOUS

Article VI, Section 1, paragraph (q) of the Local 745 By-laws:

q) Upon the death of a member of Local Union No. 745L, a wife, husband, father, mother, sister, brother, father-in-law, mother-in-law or children, money, flowers or a Bible shall be sent in the name of the Local Union. If not notified in time for flowers to be sent (but within 30 days), twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) or the Bible will be sent to the family.

In case of the death of a retired honorary member, money, flowers or Bible shall be sent if the death is reported to the Local Union Office within 30 days not to exceed twenty-five (\$25.00) and cost.

USW INTERNATIONAL

The USW International Union is dedicated to promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of wage earners to organize and establish labor unions for the purpose of collective bargaining through representatives of their choice. The USW International pledges its devotion to the attainment of a better standard of living, greater job security, better working conditions, elimination of discriminatory practices, a share of the profits from industrial progress, performance of labor contracts entered into in good faith, and a greater measure of workplace equality and justice.

Your USW Local 745 Staff Representative is Mark Trone, telephone: (309)342-2629.

“Your Union – Democracy at Work”

USW LOCAL NO. 745

Don Hill, President	(815)238-3681
Kip Kuhlemeier, Vice-President	(815)275-3323
Dave Swanson, Recording Secretary	(815)275-2340
Steve Bamberg, Financial Secretary	(815)990-4781
Dan Kreeger, Treasurer	(815)616-0536

5 Ways to Contact your Union

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