



Union Voice

From The Desk Of Rita Rogers

I'm back!! I've been out of town for a few weeks on official union business! A few of the plant chairs joined me this week and we have received information that we plan to utilize within our union to better serve our members.

Though we may be out of the office, I assure you via phone, fax, e-mail or teleconferences, we continue to work the terminations, layoffs and other issues we face on a day to day basis. If you haven't noticed, the company is terminating and reprimanding at full force. I'm also hearing lots of complaints and concerns regarding employees that are learning new jobs, bumping or being assigned to additional jobs. We have a contract and expect management to follow it. I am also reviewing a few cases that have been referred to Arbitration.

By now, most of you have heard the news that due to the Stimulus Package, a great portion of Cobra will be paid for; meaning, you will be responsible for less than 50 percent of the cost. During these times that we are currently going through, every little bit helps.

Remember members, we are facing difficult times so be patient with each other and contact your union Reps for any assistance.

Rita Rogers, ADBR



During economic uncertainty and loss of employment, the IAM's goal is to assist our members. Our mission, in good times and bad, is to educate our membership so they can make the right choices and transition themselves and their families for the future. As our members begin facing deepening financial difficulties and other personal challenges, the IAM is committed to service. Visit www.goiam.org then look for the Unemployed Resources image seen above to take you an area filled

with valuable information.

Health Insurance Alternatives

Employee Benefit Systems, Inc. In the event of a job loss or layoff, many of our Brothers and Sisters will need to make arrangements for temporary major medical coverage. Many will find the cost to continue their medical insurance under COBRA to be cost prohibitive. Employee Benefit Systems, the administrator of the Machinists Custom Choices Program, has worked with Assurant Health to develop a plan of limited health insurance benefits that is an affordable alternative to COBRA. If you have questions or would like to enroll in the plan, please call Employee Benefit Systems at 888-521-2900. EBS has online access to Assurant's underwriting allowing our counselors to customize the plan of benefits, provide rates, and take applications over the phone.

C.O.B.R.A - An Overview on COBRA

COBRA coverage works like this: Most workers who are laid off are allowed to remain in their employer-based health plan for up to 18 months, provided they pay the full premium (their share plus the employer share) and a small administrative fee. The problem is, the full premium for employment-based coverage averages about \$200 per month for individual coverage (\$2,400 a year) or almost \$575 per month (\$7,000 a year) for family coverage. Since COBRA coverage is very expensive, many laid-off workers choose to remain uninsured, gambling that they won't get sick before they find another job. However, workers who already have a chronic health condition generally accept COBRA coverage, despite the high cost. Otherwise they would have no protection against high medical bills they know they will face.

KIDSNOW

Many states offer families a variety of options for getting health care services. These options are funded through Medicaid and are administered by the county

Department of Jobs and Family Services/Department of Human Services. The name of the Department varies from state to state. Some states refer to this program as 'Healthy Start' others as 'CHIPS.' Families must be made eligible based on income, which also vary from state to state. Healthy Start and Healthy Families offer free & low cost health care coverage to families, children (up to age 19) and pregnant women. Coverage includes: doctor visits, hospital care, pregnancy related services, prescriptions, vision, dental, substance abuse, mental health services and much more. Contact your local state Medicaid office for information, or call 1-877-KIDSNOW.

www.insurekidsnow.gov

For full details of these and other alternatives you can visit their website or Contact Department of Employment Services 1-301-967-4717 for additional assistance on any of these options for coverage.

Mortgage, Creditors, and Personal Debt

AFL - CIO Save My Home Hotline

If you are a homeowner worried that the next change in your adjustable rate mortgage (ARM) will put payments out of reach or facing financial trouble that may make you fall behind on your mortgage payments, the Union Plus Save My Home Hotline may be able to help.

Union Privilege Union Safe Program

Union Plus understands the problems some union members face - especially during the current financial crisis - and is the only labor-backed organization that has developed these innovative programs to give members the help they need.

Eligible union members can apply for Union SAFE grant money (which does not need to be repaid) — and access Union Plus benefits and advice — to help combat the problems in today's economy.

Employment Assistance, Benefits, Job Search Tools, and Retraining

Below are links that you can click on when you visit the www.goiam.org website

State Specific Unemployment Information

Air Transport Specific Resources

Job Search Resource

Canadian Employment Services

Retraining Information

A successful job hunter needs to arm oneself with all of the resources at his/her disposal. This portion of the site will feature links to online assistance, job-hunting suggestions, and other resources to aid in members' job

searches.

CareerOneStop

CareerOneStop is a U.S. Department of Labor-sponsored Web site that offers career resources and workforce information to job seekers, students, businesses, and workforce professionals to foster talent development in a global economy.

Unemployment Reference

Information for union members and leaders dealing with lay-offs.

Guide for Union Leaders responding to Layoffs

Decisions and Choices - A guide for members faced with lay-offs

Government Benefits - Benefits you may be entitled to

When Will The Economy Come Back

By Larry Wilson

Inflation is at a 27-year high while personal incomes are teetering on new lows for the last 10 years. And the results are twofold: We have less money to spend. And we're spending more for less. Worse, that's just one reason why Wall Street analysts believe we're "facing the prospect of a depression and the end of the American Dream.

Now that the recession is upon us, the question at the top of every persons list is this: When will it end? Consumer spending is what drives the nearly \$10 trillion U.S. economy. It accounts for two out of every three dollars spent. Which means the recession will end when consumers like you and I are ready for it to end. No sooner, no later. The Secretary of the Treasury can chip away at interest rates, and GM and Ford can tempt us with 0% financing. But until enough of us open our wallets again—and we're in no particular hurry to change our tightwad ways—the economy isn't going anywhere. Consumers, as a group, are more astute soothsayers than any economist out there.

Consumers so often make the right calls. They know something about their employer or their job situation. Consumers generally predict recessions with more advance notice than recoveries. People pay more attention to potential losses than potential gains.

Would you say that you and your family are better off or worse off than a year ago? It sounds simple enough...until you try to answer. It sets off a cascade of silent calculations starting with your income but very quickly going into the value of your investments, how much you think your house is worth, your spending habits,

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Be Prepared and Safe During Storm Season



Well this is your sister coming at you again from the safety committee. We meet every second Wednesday of the month at 4:00 pm at plant two in the old first aid room. Please come join us and give us your feed back on how we can be safe in the work place and at home.

Ok the saying goes April Showers bring May flowers but also with April showers come thunder storms. Some severe enough that they can produce tornados, which can strike any where and any time without notice. Are you prepared to go to shelter? Do you know where the nearest shelter is should you have to go in a moments notices? If you don't have a basement do you know what to do?

Should you need to take shelter there are some things you should have on hand, a battery operated radio and flashlight with fresh batteries. Some flashlights come with a crank to power it. Fresh water could be put in your shelter along with a first aid kit some blankets and keep your cell phone close at hand.

Also plan for a secondary escape route should your main route be blocked off. If you don't have a basement, go to the center most part of the house that has the most walls between you and any glass windows. Please stay away from windows when there is lighting. Also stay off the phones, all of them, because you can get shocked or worse.

When the whether alert says take cover. Do just that. Don't go outside to see what the weather is doing or what direction it is going to or coming from. Because at night, with a storm it's difficult to see and tell where anything is. Besides it's a good way to get struck by lighting.

On a lighter note April also brings Easter, with colored eggs, pretty clothes and rabbits. Yes rabbits. Some people like to get those cute little things. If you are thinking about getting one make sure it is spayed or neutered because you could wind up with more than what you bargained for.

For some of us it's a time to remember that Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead so that we might be free to know how much God loves us by giving us his

only son.

When you have that egg hunt remember where you hid them, otherwise you could be finding eggs all summer.

When you are trying to get your yard in shape and the flowers out for that show case garden, there is always a lot to do. You have all spring and summer to do it. So don't get ahead of yourself and try to do too much too soon. Keep poisons and pesticides out of reach of pets and little ones. If you feel the need to build something be careful of sharp blades. Always use the safety guards on the blades. You don't want to lose a hand or fingers. Wear your safety glasses with the side shields on your eyes too. You do want to see what you have finished building, Right?

With all solidarity your sister, Linda Ligons
God is good all the time all the time he is good.

{Economy}

the price of gas and groceries, and how secure your job feels. It's a psychology question, not simply an economic one. It has as much to do with the demons that keep you awake at night as the bottom line on your brokerage statement.

There are four areas. First, macroeconomic policy to stimulate demand. The second is concrete actions to address the housing sector. The key issue is finding ways to write down mortgages on houses whose values have fallen substantially, without imposing large losses from foreclosures. Third, we need to repair the financial system, which will require a program to assure there's more capital and transparency about valuations. If we try to get price discovery by dumping assets on the market, we'll get fire-sale prices that would trigger cascading liquidations. Fourth, we need more cooperation to assure consistent valuation of assets between the U.S. and the rest of the world and to assure that as demand falls in the U.S., others work to take up the slack.

Everybody needs to take a deep breath and recognize the resilience, the potential, and the competitiveness of the American economy. America is a magnet for foreign capital and for highly skilled people from all over the world. I would be very surprised to see the

U.S. economy supplanted as the leading global economy anytime soon. Now that gross domestic product has officially gone negative, focus has turned to how deep the downturn will be and what needs to happen for the economy to recover. But for now, it looks like the worst is still to come. Unclogging the credit markets is a necessary first step, but the damage done to the U.S. and foreign economies thus far will take time to undo.

Going into the fourth quarter of 2008 there were three major problems weighing on the broader economy: rising energy prices, tighter credit and the continued deterioration in the housing market. The clearer indications of recession have already brought down energy prices, and there are tentative signs of improvement in the credit markets.

However, the housing market is a problem that isn't going away. There were some indications of stabilization in the housing market before the credit crunch moved into full swing in October. But tighter credit conditions, mounting job losses and a weaker economy are likely to continue putting pressure on prices. Many economists say that a recovery is impossible until a floor emerges for home prices.

So even though most economists are forecasting a recovery to begin in the second half of 2009, the risks continue to be to the downside.

The question is this: When will Wall Street realize that sending jobs overseas costs companies money in the long run... Loss of jobs means loss of customers. It is the consumer that drives the market not the investor! Is it worth it to make an investor 1¢ by laying off 10,000 employees? To bring the economy back Americans, Wall Street, and Government need to find a way to bring back jobs to America! Corporations need to become loyal to their employees.

I give my blood sweat and tears to my work for pay I receive, and I am happy to make that! While my job is sometimes not easy and the rewards can be very little, I believe that I leave my signature on every thing I do! I am loyal to my company as long as they remain loyal to me!!!

I like to think of it in the terms of a poor person winning the lottery! While they spend, spend, and spend, they forget that they need to save for the future! So the lucky winner, ends up broke and back where they started... Lay-offs work in the same manner. While the CEO gets rich, the investors get rich and the workers lose



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their jobs, the cycle leaves the investors losing money in the long run because the CEO took a HUGE bonus, rather then saving that money for a rainy day.

Sure some employees are over paid for what they do! But I ask this question and seek a serious answer! When has a CEO or a CFO of a major corporation sat down with the plant employees and said to them... "Look guys, we are in some serious trouble here, and we can't seem to figure out if the ship is going to sink or not!." and continued with "So as a starting point, the top brass here at Mega Corp. Inc. has decided to cut all our salaries, we are not going to get any bonuses, no stock options, and not one of us will make over 100K until we turn this thing around." and then asks the employees to have the same heart... "So I would like you all to take a pay cut to insure that we can make something out of these troubled times!"

Will it work? I don't know but I say it's worth a try. Find some heart CEO's and remember that rainy days lie ahead!

Resources: www.moneymorning.com
www.money.cnn.com
www.poorpeoplesparty.org

Golf Tournament

Come join us for the Third Annual Local Lodge 733 Spring Classic Golf Tournament.

This event will be held May 31, 2009 at Hidden Lakes Golf Course, 6020 S. Greenwich Road, Derby, Kansas.

The tournament will be a four-person scramble format with green fees, golf carts, range balls, and lunch included in the low price of \$75.00 a person or \$300.00 per team. The golf tournament benefits Guide Dogs of America, so come out and join us for a round of golf. This will be a great time for all, supporting a very good cause. For more information, contact Sam Humble @ 316-676-6345 or Tim Franta @ 316-676-7050.



Sunday April 12th, 2009