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# Union Voice

## From The Desk Of Rita Rogers



### Hello All

Well the anticipation is over for our Brothers and Sisters in Salina. The company met with the IAM and announced their decision to outsource 50% of the work to Mexico and 50% to other vendors.

Our Brothers and Sisters in Salina were hoping the jobs would be moved to Wichita which would give them the opportunity to move with their jobs. The news is very disappointing yet comes as no surprise. Hawker BeechCraft continues to outsource and explore other vendors for cheaper wages.

Our negotiating committee will meet with the company soon for (Effects Bargaining) plant closure. We will continue to represent and support our Brothers and Sisters in Salina in anyway possible.

We are preparing the arbitration case for the Logistic Center, an Arbiter has been selected and we are awaiting dates for the hearing. I would like to thank Ron Eldridge (Aerospace Coordinator) DBR Steve Rooney, BR Mark Love and Plant Chair Shaun Junkins for their assistance. They have attended every meeting regarding Salina, training and jobs.

We're facing tough times and companies everywhere seem to be taking advantage of the downturn by sending more of our good jobs elsewhere. Not only to Mexico but now we have States competing with other States for jobs, offering tax breaks and other benefits and incentives for our jobs.

I recently spoke with an employee who has several years with the company who conveyed what a lot of

the employees at Hawker BeechCraft are feeling.

"I used to enjoy getting up every morning and going to work. Now I wake up every day having to force myself to go to work. So multiply that by the number of people still there and this is taking a tremendous toll health wise. The way the company is treating the rest of us with threats and production times. It would almost be better mentally for the sake of everyone's health if the company would just get real and lay everything on the table to enable us to view the true picture. So a question to the company is when is enough – going to be enough. Regardless of how difficult things are as long as the doors are open we have another day to fight!"

On another note we (your insurance committee) has met with the company, VSP and Delta Dental. There seems to be a lot of people who are not utilizing the benefits that have been negotiated for them. Such as having your eyes or teeth examined etc.

We all know that having regular exams can prevent serious problems in the future. Please take time and take care of YOU. We will continue to communicate with you. Please contact the Union Office or the District for any questions.

Rita ADBR

## Could Wichita be the Detroit of Aircraft?

BY MOLLY MCMILLIN  
*The Wichita Eagle*

*Parts of the below article was taken from an article that was posted in the February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Wichita Eagle Newspaper.*

Wichita's business jet makers sometimes think about Detroit.

Wichita companies can compete, but "we've got to get to this cost

issue," Pelton said. It also will help as plane makers struggle through a down economy.

The aviation industry is in a "global sourcing environment," leaders of the industry said recently. "I don't think we can think about the world in any other way," said Spirit AeroSystems CEO Jeff Turner.

It's a controversial issue with unions and others who worry about high-paying manufacturing jobs leaving the U.S. "If that means we have to go wherever to find the resources to get the job done — capital resources, people resources — and get it done cost effectively, we're going to do that," Turner said.

Wichita plane makers are working with suppliers to bring down the cost of building an airplane. They're working internally as well. Everything is on the table.

Cessna and Hawker Beechcraft are consolidating facilities. Both are shifting some work to Mexico. Bombardier also has a plant there.

Cessna is shifting parts work from its Columbus, Ga., plant and some from Wichita to its facility in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Moving that work cuts labor costs by 50 percent, officials from Textron, Cessna's parent company, told analysts last week..

"When you think about the back room, a lot of the subassembly, a lot of the more labor-intensive work, a lot of that is what we're moving and, frankly, we have to move that to more cost-competitive places," Scott Donnelly, president and CEO of Textron, said.

Boisture acknowledges that moving work from Wichita is a controversial subject.

"Everybody wants everything



**Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**The day where everyone is Irish**

to stay here," he said. "That's an understandable emotion, until you look at your shareholders or your board and say, 'Yes, I can be here, but here's my margin.'"

The move to put work in lower-cost countries is a direct response to high labor costs and finding less-expensive places to build parts of planes, Boisture said.

"It's no more complicated than that," Boisture said.

That means we're building stuff in the wrong place, because we're going to be selling it, servicing it and delivering it on the other side of the word," Boisture said.



## March Monthly Meeting

Saturday March 6th, 2010

E-Board Meets at 8:30 am

Regular Meeting at 10:00 am



## Think Safety When Using Power Equipment

This is your sister coming at you from the safety committee we meet every second Wednesday in the old first aid room at plant 2 at 4:00 pm.



Well it's time to March into safety. We can see that we can be safe by marching properly thinking and seeing that we do what is right. Doing something as simple as wearing safety glasses, gloves or even protective suits that keep the hazardous dust and paint off our clothes helps to keep us safe.

I guess I should talk about gloves again and let everybody know that when you work around high speed machines **Do Not** put your hands into or near moving parts whether you have gloves on or not. I know some of you may think that they are fast enough to grab things with their hands, but it doesn't matter how fast you are. If you get too close to a moving part it can grab your hand and it won't let go. And ladies and men also, if you are working on machines that are moving and you have long hair put your hair up to keep it out of the way.

When you March think like a soldier being aware of what is around you. You look and think ahead about what could happen if I did this or not. We have had hand injuries that were senseless. Never ever put your hand in a high powered machine. We want everyone to go home the same way they came to work.

When we think of March spring also comes to mind. The yard is starting to come back to life and we want to keep that show case yard like we had last year. Take your time and wear your safety glass's when cutting the yard or sharpening the garden tools. There have been hands and fingers cut off at home too. They make machines with guards on them. If you don't have one with a guard use the utmost caution when sharpening tools. Keep bug sprays and garden pesticides up out of the little ones reach.

Spring can be a great time for all of us. Working in your yard in the Spring can be hard work. Take your time, don't over due it, protect yourself and your heart.

You have a life time to do what ever it is you want done.  
With all solidarity your sister,  
Linda Ligons.  
God is good all the time all the time  
He is good.

## They Just Don't Listen To Us

by Larry Wilson  
Communicator LL733

I was listening to my personal radio at work recently. They were discussing medical marijuana and whether or not it should be legalized. The station I listened to was asking its listeners to call in their opinions. The station was doing an unscientific survey. They also mentioned that a couple of TV stations in our area had also taken a survey on this same subject.

All 3 surveys were Overwhelmingly in favor of passing the medical marijuana bill currently before those that represent us. But the end results are that our elected officials don't listen to their constituents. What a surprise. The radio station reported that our legislatures were going to vote against the bill no matter what the people want.

It doesn't matter whether or not any of us are for or against allowing medical marijuana. Our legislatures feel that we don't know what we want and have already made up their minds that it shouldn't be legalized.

It doesn't have to be about medical marijuana, it could be anything under the sun that is before our elected officials to vote on that affects the citizens of their districts. They don't listen to the people that put them in office. They seem to listen to big business which has plenty of money to buy their votes. But not on the everyday citizen that put them in their jobs.

I don't know how political everyone is. But the world is a very political world. If you're one of our members that has attended Leadership I at the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center in Hollywood Maryland, then you know. They give you a lot of insight as to how politics plays a big role in everyday life and why politics is so important to each and everyone of us.

If you feel like they don't listen to you what you and I need to do

is to contact them. There is a website that takes a bit of maneuvering to find the information on those that represent us, but you can contact them. The web address is <http://www.kslegislature.org>

I found e-mail address's and phone numbers, plus more. If you've attended any of your local lodge meetings lately you've heard Sister Pat Lehman speak on some of the outlandish things our representatives are doing. Just as a sample here is information on one of the many on the site that can be found. One is Brenda Landwehr. Here is her information that I found.

Brenda Landwehr Kansas House Republican District 91 First Term: 1995 2837 N. Edwards Wichita 67204 Phone: 316-821-9800 Email: [blandweh@ink.org](mailto:blandweh@ink.org) Business Information Occupation: Business Owner 2837 N. Edwards St. Wichita 316-945-2011 Spouse: David Capitol Office Room: 151-S Phone: 785-296-7683 Email:

[brenda.landwehr@house.ks.gov](mailto:brenda.landwehr@house.ks.gov) Committee Membership Chair, Health and Human Services Room: DSOB 784 Education Budget Room: 159-S Chairperson, Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services Oversight.

I suggest and recommend checking out the site; taking the time to get involved and then contact your representatives and let them know how you feel on any of the bills they have before them. Let them know that we the people put them in office and we the people can fire them. They need to be reminded that they work for us.

## Record Profits Don't Stop Health Insurer's Record Rate Hikes

by Mike Hall

There's a theory that trends happen first in California before spreading to the rest of the nation. If that's true in health insurance, we're all in deep trouble.

Anthem Blue Cross—whose parent company WellPoint posted a record \$4.7 billion profit in 2009—announced it was gouging even more money from its 800,000 California customers by raising premiums as much as 39 percent.

Deborah Burger, RN, and co-president of the National Nurses United (NNU), says Anthem Blue Cross's "disgraceful behavior may be particularly offensive," but it is not out of character for an industry



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engaged systemically in price gouging and denial of care.

At a press conference, President Obama told reporters Anthem's rate hike makes the need for health care reform even more clear. If we don't act, this is just a preview of coming attractions. Premiums will continue to rise for folks with insurance; millions more will lose their coverage altogether; our deficits will continue to grow larger.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in a White House blog post that "too many Americans are at the whim of private, for-profit insurance companies." She said those companies also are raking in billions in profits each year, while policyholders struggle to make ends meet in this tough economy. Insurance companies can raise premiums or slash benefits, and there's not much families can do about it, especially if they have preexisting conditions that would make it hard to get other coverage....What's happening in California can happen in any state.

Keep in mind the figure \$4.7 billion in profits and then see if you or anyone else can swallow Anthem's claim that the bad economy has forced many people to drop their health insurance coverage and in turn Anthem is being forced to raise rates by 39 percent. It's not flying. Even with WellPoint's 4 percent drop in customers in 2009, its profits—the \$4.7 billion—jumped by 90 percent over 2008.

