

Steelworkers Kick Off New Coalition to Abolish Sweatshops & Child Labor

**SAVE THIS DATE:
Thursday Oct. 3
12 Noon- Indianapolis
6 p.m.- Gary, IN**

A group of young women sweatshop workers (age 18) from Bangladesh will be touring the U.S. with Charlie Kernigan from the National Labor Committee to launch an exciting new coalition of union, religious and student organizations against sweatshops. Some of the young women sew apparel for Disney and we will be leafletting at the Indianapolis Disney store. Call Robin at 219-881-6224 for more details

UNION RIGHTS VITAL TO SECURITY—“Being a member of a union has helped, not hindered, workers’ ability to protect the nation’s security,” Mark Hall, president of AFGE Local 2499 in Detroit, told a Capitol Hill press conference recently. Hall is one of two U.S. border patrol agents who were suspended for blowing the whistle on lax security procedures on the U.S.-Canadian border. Under pressure from Congress and the federal Office of Special Counsel, the Justice Department dropped all proposed disciplinary actions. Hall said his story proves how ill advised is President George W. Bush’s plan to strip civil service and collective bargaining rights from the 170,000 workers who would form the new Homeland Security Department.

RESCUE HIGHLIGHTS DANGERS—The incredible rescue of nine Pennsylvania coal miners trapped underground in the flooded Quecreek coal mine for nearly three days should remind the nation of the dangers in coal mining and the need for strong federal enforcement of the nation’s mine safety laws, Mine Workers President Cecil Roberts said July 30. “Coal mining deaths have increased in each of the past three years,” Roberts said, but the **Bush administration is seeking a 6 percent funding cut for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MHSA)**, mostly from its enforcement division.

Solidarity Soldier #31

A newsletter for union activists in

USWA Dist. 7, Jim Robinson Director

September 20, 2002

AK Steel is coming to Chicago to promote “clean” steel while it continues to treat 620 locked-out steelworker families like dirt

Protest AK Steel

at its conference on antimicrobial steel

Hyatt Regency O’Hare

9300 West Bryn Mawr Ave. Rosemont IL

Across from the Rosemont El stop on the Blue line to O’Hare

**Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2002
12 Noon**

AK Steel locked-out the 620 members of USWA Local 169 in Mansfield, OH on Sept. 1, 1999, demanding unlimited forced overtime and brought in scabs to take their jobs. The company spitefully refuses to end its attack on working families, even rejecting a union offer to settle all remaining issues with binding arbitration.

Editor: Bill Carey 219-881-6212 District 7
1301 Texas St. Gary IN 46402. To get Solidarity Soldier electronically. E-mail WCarey@USWA.org.

Driving Directions:

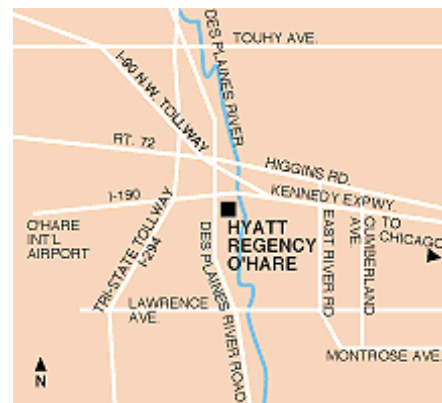
From I-294 South: Take I-294 North to I-190 O’Hare River Road, go through the toll plaza, proceed to the stop light (which is River Road), turn right, the hotel will be two blocks down on your left side.

From Downtown Chicago: Take the Kennedy I-90/94 West to I-190 O’Hare, follow the signs to O’Hare. Exit on River Road South, at the bottom of the ramp make a right hand turn and the hotel will be on your left hand side.

Parking is available at the CTA Rosemont station two blocks north of the hotel on Des Plaines River Road.

The Blue line Rosemont El-stop is one block away from the rally site.

For more information, contact: Bill Carey at the United Steelworkers (219) 881-6212.



Steelworkers tell BUSH: Health Care for all



SOUTH BEND IN: District 7 Director Jim Robinson, fires up the crowd outside a Bush fund raiser in South Bend. Three hundred and fifty steelworkers and retirees rallied outside with over 800 trade unionists students and peace activists, while Republican fat cats were paying \$4000 to have their picture taken with Bush.

Bush’s roll back of steel tariffs, his attempt to eliminate union rights for employees of the Homeland Security Department, Bush’s refusal to address the growing health care crisis in the country and the administration’s interference in the negotiations of the West Coast Longshoremen were some of the reasons for the demo. PHOTO: BILL CAREY

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Marching on Labor Day

DECATUR IL: Jim Robinson, District Director, and Sal Aguilar, District 7 Organizing Coordinator, joined over 350 former L.U. 713 members and their families at Decatur IL's Labor Day festivities. The Decatur Trades & Labor Assembly awarded Local 713's float second place in the parade which was Grand Marshalled by Glen Poshard, former U.S. Congressman. After the parade members gathered at the union hall for food, refreshments, and entertainment. PHOTO: Tony Meyer and Ralph Coates



LOWELL IN: Steelworkers acted out the Free Trade Future, as two fatcat bankers set loose the free trade wolf who ran wild during the Labor Day parade menacing children, retirees and good jobs, while fifty soggy steelworkers battered high winds and driving rain to take second place in the union division. PHOTO: DORREEN CAREY



GRANITE CITY IL: Larry Simpson and Paula Weiss carry Local 30's banner in the biggest Labor Day Parade in Madison County. Fifty different labor units marched past thousands of spectators as they traveled through 12 blocks of downtown. The parade, led by Honorary Grand Marshal Jack Greer who has worked on the parade for over 20 years, ended in a local park where the marchers consumed over 14 barrels of beer and 2000 hotdogs donated by the United Food and Commercial Workers. PHOTO: GARY GAINES

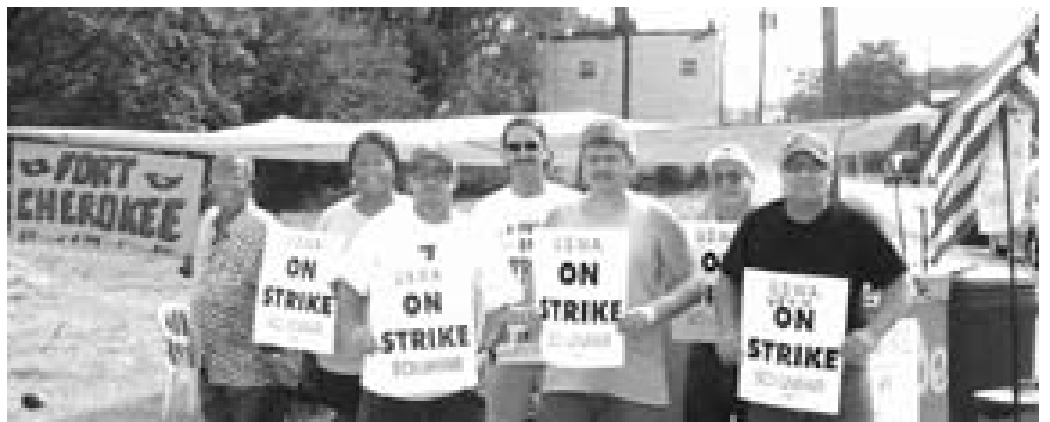


ELKHART IN: Members of L.U. 1191, 12273, 13796, 12775 and 650 marched with Jill Long, (center of photo at right), a farmer and teacher who is running for the Second District house seat. Long who voted against NAFTA, has pledged to support H.R. 4646 to help the steel retirees who have lost their health care. Her opponent is a supporter of NAFTA and "Free Trade." He also supports the recent farm bill which provides \$190 billion in subsidies to agribusiness but opposes helping out retired steel workers. PHOTOS: ROBIN RICH



Striking for Justice at Spectrulite

VENICE IL: USWA Local 4804 was forced to strike Saturday, August 31, when management at Spectrulite Consortium, a manufacturer of aluminum/magnesium parts for the aircraft industry presented their last offer. The plant has dwindled from 400 employees a year ago to less than 150 last month. Management's final offer would cut wages by nearly \$1.75/hr along with doubling the employee contribution to health insurance. Management is also demanding a complete restructuring of the seniority system with only three job classes and a blending of production and maintenance job descriptions.



SCI is typical of the non-ferrous metals industry being a closely held corporation of

family members and foreign nationals. Local union members have helped the company remain healthy during hard financial times and have made few gains in recent

contracts. But this time, the company's greed has gone to their head and so the members fought back against these outrageous demands.