

THE LOCAL VOICE

SMART Local Union #565

SPECIAL EDITION

In four locations across the State we will elect Officers of the Local. These members will serve a three (3) year term and make decisions that will impact your work life. It is important that every member participate in this election by casting a ballot. Union Meetings are suspended in June, July and August. The following members were nominated for the following positions:

BUSINESS MANAGER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY, TREASURER

Dave Goodspeed (Nominated by: Patty Zimmerman, Seconded by: Brian Seidl)
Morgan Halsted (Nominated by: Roger Engelhart, Seconded by: Bill Bullion)
Tim Sullivan (Nominated by: Tom Thoma, Seconded by: Rhonda Elliot)

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE/RECORDING SECRETARY

Jesse Buell (Nominated by: Terry Lyon, Seconded by: Brad Rice)
Russ Emon (Nominated by: Ted Johnson, Seconded by: Scott McKellips)

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE/ORGANIZER

Tom Niebuhr (Nominated by: Chad Rhyner, Seconded by: Brandon Wagner)
Tom Thoma (Nominated by: Tammy Johnson, Seconded by: Doug Lemmer)

PRESIDENT

Randy Boles (Nominated by: Tom Thoma, Seconded by: Rhonda Elliot)

VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Baker (Incumbent, Nominated by: Tim Sullivan, Seconded by: Rich Smithback)
Rhonda Elliott (Nominated by: Tom Thoma, Seconded by: John Kramer)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER (3 positions open)

Ben Fons (Nominated by: Yee Thao, Seconded by: Dave Goodspeed)
Tony Hart (Nominated by: Virgil Miller, Seconded by: Tyler Wolfe)
Terry Lyon (Nominated by: Tom Niebuhr, Seconded by: Brandon Wagner)
Rick Rumpel (Nominated by: Scott LeBaron, Seconded by: Tim James)
Rich Smithback (Nominated by: Adam Stroschein, Seconded by: Ben Beek)
Tyler Wolfe (Nominated by: Robert Brzezinski, Seconded by: Jerry Guralski)
Patty Zimmerman (Nominated by: Betty Bowman, Seconded by: Tom King)

TRUSTEE (4 positions open)

Curt Buttke (Nominated by: Scott McKellips, Seconded by: Randy Boles)
Tammy Johnson (Nominated by: Tom Thoma, Seconded by: Ted Johnson)
Scott McKellips (Nominated by: Rick Borchart Seconded by: Tammy Johnson)
Tony Thao (Nominated by: Tyler Wolfe, Seconded by: Randy Boles)

Elections for the before-mentioned officer positions will be conducted at the date, time, and place indicated below:

Wausau: Tuesday, June 6, 2017
6:00am-4:30pm
Weston Lanes
5902 Schofield Ave.
Weston, WI 54476

Pardeeville: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 2:30pm-3:30pm
Everbrite Training Room
401 S. Main St.
Pardeeville, WI 53954

Lancaster: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 3:30pm-4:00pm
Youth and Agriculture Center
Grant County UW-Extension
916 East Elm St.
Lancaster, WI 53813

Madison: Thursday, June 8, 2017 6:00am-5:00pm
Madison Labor Temple
1602 S. Park St. Room 116
Madison, WI 53715

The positions that are open are: Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Business Representative/Recording Secretary, President, Vice President, Executive Board Members (3), and Trustees (4).

Each candidate was offered a chance to publish a campaign article free of charge in this newsletter. You will find the articles of the candidates that accepted enclosed.

We strongly urge you to vote!!

Notice to the candidates: The Election Committee has added a rule that literature posted on the worksite bulletin boards needs to have a signature of the person who wrote it.

Dave Goodspeed
Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am Dave Goodspeed and I am seeking election to the office of Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer of Local 565. I have had the honor and privilege to serve the membership of our Local for the last seventeen years as a full-time officer. From 2000-2003, I was Local 565's Organizer. Since September of 2003 I have been Local 565's Business Representative/Recording Secretary and member of the Executive Board.

I have been a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 565 for the last 24 years—I worked seven years at Sub-Zero's Main Plant as an assembler where I served as a steward and committeeman. I served 14 years in the US Army Reserves and was honorably discharged at the rank of staff-sergeant in 1997. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. I have since attended classes in organizing, time study, negotiating, win-win bargaining, and arbitration at the University of Wisconsin and the National Labor College.

During my time as Business Representative I have led or assisted in over thirty labor contract negotiations. I have tried very hard to advocate for Local 565's membership. Affordable health care, living (and saving) wages, and good retirement plans are all priorities that I have tried to satisfy during contract negotiations.

I have also been willing to challenge Employers through the grievance and arbitration process, and sometimes by filing unfair labor practices with the National Labor Relations Board. I have been Local 565's arbitration representative since 2011 and have won several grievance arbitrations against Company attorneys. As a result of my efforts, Companies have had to re-employ, pay back wages, or give severance packages to suspended or terminated members from Wolf, Trachte, Sub-Zero Main Plant, Boumatic, and Greenheck Fan. This has not always made for comfortable relations with our Employers in the short term, but it has enforced respect for our contract language and for our Union.

I have never avoided members on the shop floor. I have never dodged talking with members about difficult subjects, even if we disagreed. I have never seen the membership as only a source of dues money. You pay dues for a very specialized service, and your Union representatives should provide that service in an up-front, honest, and personal fashion.

I urge you to vote in the upcoming election, and I ask that you support me.

Fraternally yours:

David Goodspeed
Business Representative/Recording Secretary

Morgan Halsted
Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer

The face of business is changing, and not for the better. Workplace injuries, wrongful terminations, reduction in benefits, and loss of positions has become the rule. These actions instill fear in hearts of workers and reduce Union morale. These are the tools being utilized to accomplish the new corporate agenda.

What can we do in order to work against this new agenda? The answer is communication. Through communication, we can achieve the first step in regaining our solidarity. In this Union, with you my brothers and sisters, I would ensure you have an accessible steward who will walk among you.

A quote by Henry Ford: “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together, is success.” We can work together with honesty, integrity and fairness. I will stand in unity with you, my brothers and sisters, and strive to build back the power of the individual into the power of the union.

Tim Sullivan
Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer

Dear Brothers and Sisters of SMART Local 565,

My name is **Tim Sullivan** and I am a candidate **for Business Manager** of this Local, a position I formerly held from 1993 – 1996. I would love to serve again in this role because I want to move our Local forward during these challenging times. We need to grow this Local, educate the membership and the public, and represent the members to the best of our ability. I have gained hands-on experience as a Business Representative/Organizer over the past 18 years representing the shops in the Local. I currently represent the members of Carnes, Bou-Matic, Therma-Stor, Sub-Zero Bi and Sub-Zero Wolf, which includes close to 1,000 members. While these are my assigned represented shops, I have represented every shop in this Local at various times and have negotiated several contracts in each of those facilities. I organized the good workers at Loudspeaker in 2000 and even though I no longer represent that group, the workers there will always hold a special place in my heart.

I am a third-generation Union member and learned at a very young age the importance of Unions. Both my father and grandfather were hard-working blue collar union workers. My Dad was a factory worker and my grandfather was a railroad engineer – both taught me the value of unionism and strengthening the middle class. They are the reason I do this work.

My indoctrination to this Local Union started in 1982 as a worker at Carnes Co in 1982. I started out an assembler, then became a turret press operator, and my last position at Carnes was as a metal spinner. I served as Union Steward for two years in 1984 before being elected to the Union Negotiation Committee from 1986-1993 and helped to negotiate three contracts in my

tenure. Paul Lund appointed me as Vice-President of the Local in 1990 to fill an unexpired term. I ran for President in 1990 and served a three-year term. From 1993 – 1996, I was Business Manager for one term. I was unsuccessful in my re-election bid and went back to work at Carnes for three years and won election in 1999 for Business Representative/Organizer in 1999, a position I currently hold.

After winning re-election in 1999, I attended an SMWIA International Organizing class with Scott Gast, after which I worked on several organizing drives, and organized Loudspeaker in 2000. While Business Manager, I introduced the various bargaining committees to interest-based bargaining and various pay systems. Working with Tim Hintze, we introduced programs such as the Scholarship Awards, Death Benefit, 25 and 40 year award banquets, and hardships, which now is called the member to member fund. I started the training program for Stewards and Union Committee persons. I worked with representatives of American Income Life in 1993 to start our now-current AD&D program. All of these programs have helped members, their dependents, or survivors when they had a special need.

My mentors include Business Managers Paul Lund, Tim Hintze, and Ray Ficken. While each have different leadership styles, I have learned various things from each of them and applied that to my role working for you.

I value community service and giving back to the community all while promoting our Local. The contacts made, both Union and non-have been invaluable. I recently served a 6-year term as one of the Labor representatives on the United Way of Dane County Board of Directors and serve on two other sub-groups at United Way. I regularly participate in the Postal Worker Food Drive, River Food Pantry, the annual Bean Feed and Labor Day functions. I am a Delegate for the South Central Federation of Labor, while also serving on the Executive Board as a Trustee and also on the COPE Steering Committee. Additionally, I am a poll worker for the Village of Oregon and have continued to serve for the past several years.

I also designed the 40-year ring for our members. I saw someone at one of our conferences wearing a ring and thought this would be a nice way to recognize 40-years of service. I drew a picture of the ring and designed the ring working with another SMWIA leader. It's important to commemorate all of the time and hard work members have spent on the job.

Being a Business Manager of this Local is not an easy one, especially in the days of Right-to-Work and the attacks on workers every day. There is no decision I have made in the past twenty years in all the positions I have held that has not come without a lot of investigation, research, and thoughtfulness of the impact to the membership and the Local. Some decisions have been popular and some not so much, but with my experience and knowledge, together we can move this Local forward with your help. *We need to grow this Local, educate the membership and the public, and represent the members to the best of our ability.* Feel free to contact me at (608) 770-3604 if you'd like to talk.

I would appreciate your vote for Business Manager on Election Day, June 6-8.

Thank You for your time.

Tim Sullivan

- **Hired in 1982 at Carnes**
- **Last job was a Metal Spinner**
- **1984 – 1986: Union Steward**
- **1986-1993: Union Committee**
- **1991/90: Vice-President (appointment)**
- **1990-1993: President (ran unopposed)**
- **1993-1996: Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Treasurer**
- **1999- Present: Business Representative/Organizer**
- ✓ **Attended SMWIA International Organizing class in 1999**
- ✓ **Organized Loudspeaker in 2000**
- ✓ **Introduced 'Interest-based' bargaining to the Local in 1993, which is still used today**
- ✓ **Represented and negotiated contracts for every shop in this Local for over 20 years**
- ✓ **Represented Greenheck Fan while Tim Hintze was recovering from cancer surgery**
- ✓ **Served on United Way Board of Directors in Dane County for six years**
- ✓ **20 years serving as a Delegate, Trustee, and Executive Board for South Central Federation of Labor (SCFL)**
- ✓ **Serves on SCFL COPE Committee, which interviews candidates for Local elections**
- ✓ **Currently serve on two other sub-committees at United Way**
- ✓ **Volunteer as a worker at annual Bean-Feed, Labor Day, and Postal Workers Food Drive for the last 20 years**
- ✓ **Designed the 40-year ring for the membership for consecutive service of 40 years**
- ✓ **Served as election poll worker for the past 5 years**

Jesse Buell**Business Representative/Recording Secretary**

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

My name is Jesse Buell I live in Stoughton, WI with my wife and four girls. I've been an employee of Subzero BI for nineteen years and in the past eleven years I've TIG welded in the stainless welding area. I also served on the bargaining committee and I have a family history of union activity and membership. I have uncles that have retired after 30 plus years in United Steelworkers 1207, my mother served as VP of the bargaining committee and Stewart for SEIU District 1199W/United Professionals for Quality Health Care. My cousin Jack Clifton just recently retired from Local 18 Sheet Metal Workers and my unclce Joe Clifton was business manager of this very own Local 565 which I am very proud to say and can only hope that you all will give me the opportunity to carry on the tradition.

I would like to take this opportunity to work on Communication, Solidarity, Organizing internally and out. I believe these are things that need to be applied. I believe with communication solidarity and trust will build on its own.

I am running for Business Representative/Recording Secretary and I hope there's confidence in my sincerity for better communication with the people, organization and a higher level of professionalism. Not to forget my strong feelings for the working class and their rights. Thank you for this opportunity and please take me into consideration on June 6th, 7th and 8th. Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure The impact lasts in your absence.

Russ Emon
Business Representative/Recording Secretary

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Local 565:

My name is Russ Emon and I am running for the Business Rep./ Rec. Secretary position. Let me give you a little background on myself.

I've been a Journeymen from 1992-2012, SMART, trades union local #18, where I was on a negotiating committee for the members that worked for eight local companies. Where we negotiated a contract that the members were very happy with. Also I was involved in a lot of fund raising we did for local and state members. From 2012- present I've been a member with local #565, Greenheck Corp. as a welder, shop Steward, GPS Team and maintenance mechanic.

From 2006-2014, I was Treasurer of the Marathon Labor Council, worked with AFL-CIO, Jobs Now, local unions, Member to member, organized the Wausau Labor Day parade, Workers Memorial, and other events.

I feel that my qualifications will help me to follow thru with the duties, for the members, as Business Rep./Rec. Secretary. I appreciate your time and hope to see you at the polls in June 2017.

Your brother in Solidarity:
Russ Emon

Tom Niebuhr
Business Representative/Organizer

Brothers and Sisters of Local 565,

My name is Tom Niebuhr. I am an 18 year member of Local 565 and I work at Sub Zero Freezer. I am running for the position of Business Representative/Organizer.

Over the years I have held an array of positions throughout the Sub Zero facility. I have worked in assembly, as a utility, and as a stainless welder/finisher. I have also worked as a material handler/dock worker. These positions have shown me that companies do not run smoothly without the efforts of each and every individual member.

I admit that I have little experience with union representation. For years, like many of you, I just paid dues because it was a condition of employment. For a long time I did not fully understand the importance of our Local Union. But in recent years I have grown increasingly frustrated over the attack on the workers in our state. At first it was Act 10, stripping the collective bargaining rights from public workers. Then it was Right To Work; an attack against private sector unions. But most importantly it was a feeling of abandonment within my own Local.

I have watched my coworkers lose fair representation because some of our full time representatives have sought to avoid unfortunate but necessary conflict with the companies where we work. I have witnessed the fear of filing a ULP; the membership had to take it up in themselves to do it alone without support of some of our representatives. I have not seen this Local take strides forward, instead many steps back. I have witnessed lies and now deals behind our backs. I have not seen a presence of Local leadership within our facilities. My frustration is only a mirror of that felt by a majority of our members.

I'm running to give you your voice back! I will back you in the smallest of battles and dig my heels in during the largest. You will see me on your shop floors frequently checking in and addressing issues. And most importantly you will gain back TRUST! Remember: To have change we have to step up and make that change! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Fraternally yours,

Tom Niebuhr

608-575-1272

tsniebs@yahoo.com

Tom Thoma
Business Representative/Organizer

Hello Union Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Tom Thoma and I am a candidate for Business Representative/Organizer for Smart Local 565. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I am a 1984 graduate of Wausau East High School. I married my high school sweetheart in 1987. We will be celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary on June 6th, the Wausau election day. We have a son who is 28 years old. He and his wife blessed us with a precious grandson who is 7 months old. We also have a 25 year old son who is engaged to be married. I was a 6 year member of the Teamsters Union where I previously worked. I served on the properties committee at my local church. I was hired at Greenheck Fan in 1993 and I now hold a job as a Newex assembler. While at Greenheck Fan

I served on the Union Committee and I am currently serving on the Smart 565 Executive Board. I am involved in the internal organizing and the new hire orientation at Greenheck Fan. I am dedicated to the members of Local 565 and I want to work as a team with the Local 565 officers. This is a passion of mine and why I am seeking this position. We will build our solidarity in the shops and grow as a local. I would like to ask for your support to elect me so we can move this local forward in a positive way.

Thank you,
Tom Thoma

Paul Baker
Vice President

My name is Paul Baker. I am a 22-year Union member at Carnes Company, a manufacturing plant in Verona. I am a certified tool and die worker and part-time maintenance man.

I am a candidate for re-election for the post as Vice-President of the Local. I was appointed to the position by the Executive Board in 2010 and was elected to a full three-year term in 2011 and 2014.

I am presently serving on the Union Committee at Carnes and have served on Union Committees there for the past twenty three years. In 2015, we negotiated the best wage increases Carnes has had in many years.

When the vacant position of Vice-President opened up, I expressed interest because I wanted to learn more of the inner workings of the Local. As a member of the Executive Board, the Vice-President has a voice in the decision-making process of how this Local Union functions, and also the programs and policies we would review or establish. This is a job I take very seriously. I also think the Executive Board needs a voice from the membership from the smaller shops and that is another reason I am asking for your vote in the General Officer Elections in June. Please exercise your rights and come vote.

Rhonda Elliott
Vice President

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

My name is Rhonda Elliott and I am seeking election to Vice President of SMART Local 565. I have been a member of this Local for almost 12 years, working at Greenheck Fan as a Fabricator. I currently serve as a shop steward and have for over 7 years. For the past 3 years I have also served as a Trustee. As a Trustee, I have had the opportunity to learn about the business end of the Local, and what it takes to keep us operational. It has also given me the ability to network with people and learn more about the Labor Movement in general. I was asked to represent Local 565 and speak at the South Central Federation of Labor's Worker's Memorial Day Ceremonies 2 years ago, and I was honored to do so. I have attended workshops put on by

the AFL-CIO, on my own time, to gain more understanding and knowledge. I'm now ready to take on a more active role in Local 565. I want to be part of the decision making process that is going to move this Local forward and help us to continue to thrive.

I encourage you to be involved, get out and vote in the upcoming election, and I ask for your support.

Thank you,
Rhonda Elliott
Nominee for Vice President of Local 565

Terry Lyon
Executive Board

Hello I have worked for Sub-Zero for 18 years, and like many of you I have seen the company take advantage of the workers, and with all due respect it's seen as the union was not representing Us in the proper way or at least in a way that I felt they should, I have always been a vocal opponent of things that I felt were not beneficial for the workers, for the last three years I have been on the bargaining committee for bi at Sub-Zero to change those things no longer was I satisfied with putting other people there so I took it upon myself to fight for the people myself and now I ask you to help me take that next step by putting me on the executive board so that I can represent more than just the bi Union brothers and sisters

Sincerely yours Terry Lyon

Rick Rumpel
Executive Board

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Rick Rumpel, and I'm asking for your support as a candidate for Local 565 Executive Board.

Since entering the work force in the 70's, at a time when unions were strong and jobs were plentiful, I've been active in issue based politics and helping create change. My involvements with nonprofit groups have ranged from positions on the board of directors to voluntary public relations.

We are at a time where unions have been weakened through many years of anti-worker legislation and union busting tactics. We need to find solidarity amongst ourselves on the shop floor, within our individual bargaining units, and collectively as a local.

One of my objectives on the Executive Board would be to ensure a better line of communication between leadership and members. I'd also like to see the same between the shops, and a formation of a committee of shop stewards to share successful practices and procedures.

We need to remember the past and learn from history so we can support each other when confronted with ridiculous concessions. We have workers entering the workforce who have no idea what a union is, or what membership has accomplished. They are entering a “Right to Work” (4 Less) atmosphere, and it’s our duty to educate, organize, and provide them the necessary support to succeed.

Thank you for your consideration.

In Solidarity,

Rick Rumpel
Shop Steward, Wolf Appliance

Rich Smithback Executive Board

Hi, my name is Richard Smithback and I am running for a position on the Executive Board for SMART Local 565. I currently work at Therma-Stor as Large Unit Fabricator and have been Union Committee person since 2011. I have also been on the negotiating committee for 3 separate contracts. I have been a member of several different unions including the UAW, United Steel Workers, Carpenter and Joiners, and the United Food and Commercial Workers. I am also currently the Assistant Director of Stoughton Area Emergency Medical Service and run as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician. I believe with these and other life experiences would make me a valuable member of the executive board. I am honest and fair with good judgement to make hard decisions that are presented to me. I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election.

Sincerely,
Richard M. Smithback

Ineligible Voters

Below is a list of non-dues paying employees that are not eligible to vote in the upcoming officer election:

- Brad Hagenbucher
- Ronald Mootz
- Brad Habeck
- Timothy Dickinson
- Andrew Woiak
- Kurt Meverden
- Nou Vang Thao
- Devin Hebein
- Carl Hayenga

Organize, Organize, Organize

With all the attacks on working people as of late, there has been a renewed interest in joining a Union. What has surprised me is the people that are exploring a Union. Over the last year we have met with multiple low wage and white collar workers, specifically from Companies that we would not normally go after.....they are coming to us.

Forming a union in the workplace is not an easy thing for the workers. Employers put immense pressure on workers during these drives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members that have made us a success at both internal and external organizing.

Currently, we are still in the process of trying to get a contract at our newly organized shop, Mandli Communications. It has been over a yearlong battle for a first contract but I am confident in the ultimate outcome.

We are always looking for new organizing opportunities, if you hear someone in a non-Union shop complaining about the working conditions let them know we can help.

In Solidarity,

Dan Kortte

2017 SMW 565 Scholarship Winners

We are proud to announce the winners of Local 565's scholarships for 2017. The judges had a difficult time this year again. The Local had Fourteen (14) applicants and four (4) recipients.

The winner of the President's Scholarship, \$1500, is Tiffany Heinzen, daughter of member Matthew Heinzen.

The winner of the Scott Gast Memorial Scholarship, \$1100, is Dustin Sperl, son of member John Sperl.

The winner of the Paul Lund Memorial scholarship, \$1100, is Danielle Lampe, daughter of member Daniel Lampe.

The winner of the SMW Local 565 scholarship, \$1000, is Alyssa Niebuhr, daughter of Tom Niebuhr

Local 565 offers its congratulations to these deserving recipients. We also wish the best to all who applied. Your education is a benefit to everyone.

The six judges who select the winners are not members or employees of Local 565 and are from various walks of life. The Judges are given all completed applications. They assign point totals for each scoring category. The score sheets are then sent to the Local's Office Manager who compiles the totals. The top scorers are awarded the available scholarships. The full time officers of the Local do not see the applications or results until the winners are announced.

About the Union Plus Discount Card

(Excerpted from their website)

Union Plus is a non-profit and we're the ONLY consumer benefits organization created and endorsed by the AFL-CIO.

We believe that our country's middle class was built by union-strong members like you, so we diligently research every benefit and tailor them to support you and other union members — we're working hard, to make life a little easier for you.

How it Works—Solidarity, Savings and Support

- Stand in Solidarity: Did you know that there are more than 12 million union members in the United States? Because of our strength in numbers, we're able to negotiate exclusive discounts and financial assistance programs just for union members and their families.

- Savings and Unique Programs — Pay it Forward: We pass along the exclusive benefits we've negotiated on behalf of union members directly to you. These benefits and programs are FREE to union members and their families. There's no membership —if you're a current or retired union member or a family member — you're in.

- Supporting Union Workers and Union-Made Products: We're union and we stand by union. We're committed to supporting U.S.-based and union workers, right down to using union printers and union-made products in our offices and our staff are members of OPEIU, Local 2.

We've negotiated with some of the biggest names and brands to get you the discounts you deserve and the benefits working union members need — such as hardship help, strike grants and disability benefits. We've got your back!

If You're Union — You're Eligible

As current and retired union members, you are automatically eligible for your union's Union Plus Benefits — often times, your parents, spouse and children are also eligible. No Union Plus membership, No Fees, No Waiting Period, No Hassle.



(Links to the Union Plus website and smartphone apps can be found on the Local 565 website)

Victory for Working People from the Wisconsin Supreme Court

Attorney Marilyn Townsend announced that after over three years of litigation, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled unanimously on May 4, 2017, that Lela Operton was entitled to unemployment compensation benefits. The government had denied her benefits under a new law, which prohibits benefits to workers discharged for “substantial fault.” The new law was specifically enacted in 2013 to make it more difficult for workers to collect benefits. Ms. Operton appealed the original denial and suffered a series of losses before prevailing in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and ultimately by the Supreme Court.

Ms. Operton was discharged after she made only 8 cash handling errors out of over 80,000 transactions. Operton’s attorney Marilyn Townsend contended, and the Supreme Court agreed that the new law includes language that “inadvertent errors” do not constitute substantial fault. It found that Ms. Operton’s mistakes were all inadvertent. The Court emphasized that there was no dispute but that Operton was a hardworking, conscientious employee, who was always on time and would work weekends when asked.

Townsend was relieved by the Decision. She stated that ‘If the Supreme Court had not ruled in Ms. Operton’s favor, than our unemployment system would have been effectively gutted.’ She added that “if hard working, conscientious workers like Ms. Operton could not qualify for benefits then other workers would meet a similar fate.”

Marilyn Townsend, Attorney
122 W. Washington Avenue, S-610
Madison, WI 53703
website: mtownlaw.com
608-255-5111

If you have moved or if your beneficiary has changed, please contact either your Union officer or the Union office to fill out the appropriate cards. Also, if you will be off of work for more than a month, remember to contact the Union office at 608-257-5757

MEETINGS

We have regular monthly meetings in Wausau and Madison the first week of the month. The first Tuesday of the month, we meet at 7:30am, 12:00pm and 3:30pm at Weston Lanes in Weston. The meetings in Madison are the first Thursday of the month, at 12:00pm, 2:30pm, and at 4:00pm.

Please note: We suspend meetings during the summer months of June, July, and August.

***Remember to visit our NEW website at
smartlocal565.org***

Please don't forget about our new website! The website address is smartlocal565.org. We have completely revamped the site in order to better communicate with our membership. We always include a copy of the most recent newsletters. Should you have articles of interest you wish to put on the website, please let us know.



**Sheet Metal Workers International
Association Local 565
1602 So. Park St.
Madison, WI 53715**

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MEMBER COMMENTS WELCOMED

*Articles and letters are welcomed on matters of member interest.
Not all letters can be printed and because of space restraints, articles may be edited.*

Please send your comments to:

*SMART Local 565
1602 So. Park St. Room 105
Madison, WI 53715*

*The Local Voice is published by SMART Local 565 for the benefits of its members.
Local 565 is a Labor Organization and this publication may, at times, speak out strongly
for or against issues important to working people.*