



USW-represented miners picket Stillwater Mining Co. Photo by Billings Gazette

### Community Supports Aluminum Strikers

Workers on strike at Ohio Valley Aluminum Co. in Shelbyville, Ky., have received unprecedented encouragement and support from the community in a dispute over their first contract.

Since the strike began June 1, a broad array of civic, labor and community-based organizations have rallied to the cause, including attending a mass rally July 11 at the Louisville corporate headquarters of the parent company, Interlock Industries.

Some 90 workers at the plant, which produces aluminum billets, are represented by Local 1693. The amalgamated local represents 1,600 members at a wide variety of employers.

Working people and community members have donated food and thousands of dollars in cash to help the families of strikers. A local doctor, David W. Suetholz of Taylor Mill, Ky., provided free medical care after the company stripped away workers' meager health insurance when the strike began.

The USW negotiating committee at the Golden Crest Nursing Home in Hibbing, Minn., recently settled a first contract. Golden Crest was one of three lead cases before the National Labor Relations Board last year in the so-called Kentucky River decision that redefined the legal definition of a supervisor. Pictured are (back row) Nancy Francis,

Local 9349 president; Patty Rancourt, unit president; Cathy Warner, District 11 staff rep. (front row) Theresa Trejo, LPN; Colleen Clusia, LPN and Deb Waara, RN. LPN Kristin Jensen is not shown.



### Strike Leads to Pact at Platinum Mine

USW members struck Stillwater Mining Co. in Montana for six days before ratifying a new four-year labor agreement with the only U.S. producer of palladium and platinum.

The work stoppage involved about 800 members of Local 11-0001 at a Stillwater platinum mine near Nye, Montana, and a related smelter project.

The strike ended July 16 after members ratified the new agreement by a 54 to 46 percent margin. It contained improvements over two previous tentative agreements rejected by the membership.

Miners got a 3 percent wage hike and support workers received 4 percent in the contract's first year. All workers won 4 percent wage increases in each subsequent year. Vacations were improved and benefits were maintained. Emergency leave provisions for new hires were added.

Stillwater is the largest producer of platinum metals outside of Russia and South Africa.

### Gerdau Settlement Leaves Two Open Contracts

Members of Local 9777-29 in Joliet, Ill., ratified a four-year agreement with Gerdau Ameristeel, leaving two contracts still outstanding during the current round of bargaining.

Nine contracts with Gerdau have been settled since the company tried to break the union by locking out members of Local 8586 in Beaumont, Texas for six months in 2005. At press time, negotiations were continuing for workers at Sand Springs, Okla., and Calvert City, Ky.

Recent top management changes have led USW negotiators to believe the company may want to develop a more cooperative relationship.

Gerdau is a Brazilian company that has expanded into North America by acquiring existing steelmaking properties, many with USW represented workers. It is now the No. 2 mini-mill producer.

### Sparrows Point Goes to Esmark

To satisfy the government's anti-trust concerns, steel giant ArcelorMittal has agreed to sell its Sparrows Point plant near Baltimore to an investor group led by Chicago-based Esmark Inc. and Wheeling-Pittsburgh Corp.

The sale, announced Aug. 2, ends months of uncertainty for the mill's USW-represented workers. Mittal had been looking for a buyer since February when the Department of Justice ordered the sale.

District 1 Director David McCall, USW chair of the ArcelorMittal bargaining committee, said negotiations with both the seller and the new buyer will be initiated and resolved in the near future.

Esmark and Wheeling-Pittsburgh agreed to merge earlier this year. "We are looking forward to our growing relationship with Esmark and their commitment to invest in the acquisition," said International President Leo W. Gerard. "We have full confidence that the Esmark venture will grow steelworker jobs in Baltimore and fulfill the commitment to the retirees."

Sparrows Point is a former Bethlehem Steel plant capable of producing 3.9 million tons of raw steel annually. Our Local 9477 represents about 2,500 active USW members.

### Contract with Carlyle Approved

USW-represented workers at four Goodyear Engineered Products plants have ratified a new five-year contract with the Carlyle Group, a private equity firm that is buying the facilities.

The agreement was approved by more than a two-to-one margin at plants located in St. Marys, Ohio, Lincoln, Neb., Sun Prairie, Wis. and Marysville, Ohio. The facilities will become part of EPD Inc. once the sale is finalized.



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