

BEEN THERE...DONE THAT!

One of the last few independent unions in the paper industry was at the Kimberly Clark mill in Kimberly Wisconsin. A few years ago, after numerous corporate takeovers, and the concessions and losses that came with them, the independent union's local leadership finally said, "Enough is enough!" They decided to affiliate with the International Union and ultimately became USW Local 2-9.

They immediately noticed a difference in how management treated them at the bargaining table. They negotiated their first contract under the USW and achieved a much stronger agreement than they ever did as an independent.

Shortly after signing the agreement they learned that they were sold again. But this time it was different. Instead of anxiety and worry, there was a sense of pride in knowing that the new owner would be forced to recognize their USW contract, their seniority, and their Union!



"In 1976 Kimberly Clark sold our mill and walked away with 94% of our pension benefit. We were then purchased by a Canadian company and were forced to take wage and benefit concessions in exchange for a profit sharing plan that never made up for our losses. Next we were bought by Wisconsin Consolidated Paper and they gutted our protective contract language. We fought to the bitter end to hang on to our proud tradition as one of the few independents left in the industry, but ultimately we were forced to face the fact that we couldn't do it alone. We're now proud USW members!"

Jeffrey A. Wyngard, Vice Pres., USW Local 2-9

Jeff was in Covington during the week of December 10, 2007 to share his Local's experiences with Local 8-675 members.

USW members in Kimberly, Wisconsin were forced to learn the hard way about how big, powerful, multi-national corporations will treat an isolated group. Now they have a strong USW agreement that helps protect them from losing wages and benefits while rich CEO's line their pockets!

Workers in Covington don't have to be exposed to these types of threats because they have the strength that an international union provides. We need to stay together and stay strong!

The choice is clear...USW

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