



TOOL TALK

A Publication of the Michigan Tooling Association

From Rob's Roost

by: Rob Dumont,
Managing Director



RUMINATIONS

There is much to do and much is being done! Building on the success of the recent seminar here at MTA on Bankruptcy and the Lien legislation, shortly after this edition of Tool Talk goes to press we will hold a repeat performance in Lansing. Response thus far is encouraging and discussion has been had that if the Lansing effort is well attended we will look to another effort in Saginaw or that general area of the State.

There has been much activity with respect to the Recovery Zone legislation. Amendments of various types are being offered, the main one being to remove the 50 employee cap on applicant companies.

Personally I have fielded a number of inquiries from interested members and provided whatever assistance was sought that was available. Indeed I was invited to attend on a collaborative group being put together in the Jackson area to discuss and offer my views on their effort and I did so. Frankly, I was very impressed with not only the attitude but the determination of the participants not to mention the obvious spirit of collaboration among them. Two of the eight firms involved are MTA members and I have followed up with the others with information on and an invitation to join MTA.

Interestingly, MTA's assistance is being offered without

charge and several comments were heard on the expensive proposal made by another Michigan association offering assistance of like nature to potential applicants under the legislation. Certainly it remains the view of the MTA that we are here to serve the membership not simply market to it.

In keeping with that commitment, our political advocacy efforts continue and we seize every opportunity to meet with elected officials and present our concerns, positions and proposals. Since I last wrote from my Roost, I have met with Congressman Joe Knollenburg and communicated with a number of other representatives at both the Federal and State levels.

A.B. Heller of Milford Michigan will be hosting a town hall meeting featuring Representative Chris Ward of the Michigan House (R - 66) on May 6th next. We sent out invitations to attend, and, the response, while not overwhelming, has been heartening. I can not over emphasize the value of such efforts by our members. It is this type of event that educates our elected representatives meaningfully so that they get in touch with the realities of our industry and we, the participants in the industry get the opportunity to go face to face with our concerns. Any of you who can host a similar effort are encouraged to do so and be assured MTA will step up and assist in any way possible. My personal thanks to Jim Heller and Peter Rosenkrands of A.B. Heller for hosting this event.

Look for more in the Seminar arena in coming months. We would encourage you to send us your ideas on areas and topics of interest. Be assured as well that these shows will go on the road and won't necessarily open in Farmington Hills, the home site of MTA. I invite your input in this regard as well.

Inside This Issue

- Page 2 Mark's Remarks
- Page 3 Welcome New Members / Memorial Day Poem / Unfair Trade Practices
- Page 4 From the Desk of Gary Wood
- Page 5 On the Road with Bill Hoke / A Lighter Note
- Page 6 Members In The News / Legislative Update / Use Outlook 2003 Better
- Page 7 FYI / Tee Time
- Page 8 Marketplace / MTA Endorsed Service Providers List / CPI Figures

MTA Calendar of Events — May 2005

See www.mtaonline.com 'Calendar' for more information on any event

- 05 MTA & Raymond & Prokop sponsored seminar: "A Primer on Bankruptcy"
Held at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel, Lansing MI
- 06 Chris Ward town hall meeting held at AB Heller
- 18 MTA Board of Directors meets
- 19 MTA WCF Board of Trustees meets
- 30 Memorial Day—MTA offices closed



Mark's Remarks

by: Mark Tyler, General Manager
MTA Insurance Agency



SPD Update: Factoring in the military

You may have seen a notice recently about the United Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). USERRA has two key provisions:

1. Any employee that is called to active service has the right to purchase continued coverage under the employer-sponsored health plan.
2. Any employee who is returning from active service must be allowed to immediately have coverage reinstated under the employer's health plan. The Department of Labor web site (www.dol.gov/vets) has a notice that employers are required to post regarding USERRA.

Be timely with RRC process



Modified age and industry factors now have a greater impact on renewal rates.

When a group provides their BCBSM Rate Renewal Certification (RRC) information after the required renewal cut-off date, it will need to be reviewed through the BCBSM rate renewal appeal process.

The appeal process takes approximately **four weeks** for BCBSM Underwriting to complete.

In determining a group's final rates, BCBSM considers several factors, including these three:

1. Rating method (Reform/Non-reform).

- ❖ **Reform rating** methods include factors based on the age of the employees enrolled in the group coverage. This applies to groups with 50 or less eligible employees.
- ❖ **Non-reform rating** methods do not include age factors, but can include size and participation factors. This applies to groups with 51+ eligible employees, and to ALL groups that fail to respond to the RRC process regardless of the number of employees.

The appeal process will move the group into the correct rating category and apply factors based on that rate method.

2. Average age of the employees enrolled in the BCBSM group coverage. Beginning with April 2005 renewals, BCBSM implemented more aggressive age rating factors. Groups with a younger average age may see a reduction or a smaller increase in their renewal rates. Groups with an older average

age may now experience a larger increase in their renewal rates.

3. SIC code. Beginning with January 2005 renewals, the BCBSM area rated pool was divided into seven different rate classes based on SIC code experience and trends.

- ❖ Industries that fall into classes 1, 2 and 3 will have a more favorable rating factor.
- ❖ Those in classes 5, 6 and 7 will have an additional rate factor.
- ❖ Industries in class 4 will not include any SIC class adjustment.

These modified age and industry factors now have a greater impact on group's renewal rates as a result of increased rate band variances beginning with year two of Small Group Market Reform.

A new way to be Blue...get the freedom to self-refer with Blue Elect

Blue Care Network has introduced the Blue Elect Self-Referral Option, a product that was developed to appeal to groups interested in offering an HMO but whose employees may be reluctant to join due to their perception of restrictive networks.

Blue Elect offers flexibility and convenience through its unique design that allows members to self-refer to providers of their choice. Plus, by choosing Blue Elect Plan I with a \$10/\$40 drug card, groups can save 10 to 15 percent over similar competitor PPO's in most parts of the state.

Two standard Blue Elect plans have been added to the small group menu. Groups with 100 or more enrolled contracts can build a custom product. BCN has written a new certificate and new riders for Blue Elect. We can begin to quote groups for a July 1, 2005, effective date.

The benefit level has two tiers:

- ❖ Tier 1 (regular HMO coverage) provides covered services performed by or referred by the member's primary care physician
- ❖ Tier 2 includes covered services when a member self-refers to a provider of his or her choice (panel or non-panel). Tier 2 services are not provided or referred by the member's PCP. The covered services must meet BCN medical criteria in accordance with BCN policy. If the member self-refers to a Blue Care Network contracted provider (a panel doctor), the member will not be balance-billed. If the member refers outside BCN's network (to a non-panel doctor), the member may be balance-billed. When self-referring, members

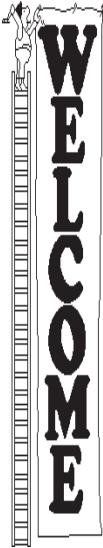
will pay higher copayments and a deductible will apply.

For more information contact Mark Tyler at 248-489-8505.

Welcome New Members!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to the Michigan Tooling Association:

- ❖ **Universal Tube, Inc.** of Rochester Hills, specializing in tube fabricating for automotive and heating and cooling customers;
- ❖ **Northern Gage & Calibration, LLC** of Chesterfield, specializing in the manufacturing of precision thread gauges and plain gauges for the automotive and aircraft industry;
- ❖ **International Tooling Solutions, LLC** of Grand Rapids, specializing in the manufacturing of tool and dies for automotive systems, Electrolux, and John Deere; and
- ❖ **Ultimate Tooling Inc.** of Walker, specializing in the manufacturing of jigs, gauges, and fixtures for the automotive and furniture industries.



Memorial Day

by: Luke, 3rd Grader, Madison, Connecticut.

Remember the brave soldiers who gave their lives
For our freedom,
God Bless them all these courageous
Men and women.

They fought on land,
Others at sea,
Sacrificing their lives for
You and me.

Schools and offices respect these heroes
From the past,
By flying our beautiful flag
At half-mast.

As you watch the parade and hear
The trumpets play,
Please think about what we celebrate on
Memorial Day.



Says U.S. Manufacturers Can Compete with China's Low Wages, But Not with Unfair Trade Practices

Testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee, a small manufacturer and National Association of Manufacturers member declared that, "Competing against China's low wages is tough enough, but a deck stacked with unfair trade practices makes it practically impossible."

Richard L. Wilkey, President of Fisher-Barton, Inc. near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, employs roughly 500 people in the manufacture of machine components, lawnmower blades and other metal parts.

"No other trade subject comes close to commanding the attention of manufacturers the way China does," Wilkey reported to committee members. "We need a positive and balanced trading relationship with China that reflects market forces. And we can hold our own with China, as my company has, by investing in technology and innovation to boost productivity."

Wilkey observed that he has seen "many companies around me driven out of business, and many were my suppliers. Not all of these companies were dinosaurs—a number of them had made significant investments in technology and modern business methods to remain competitive. They had done all the right things."

Wilkey said the NAM is calling for actions on several key issues. "We want the Treasury Department to cite China for currency manipulation; the House and Senate should help offset Chinese subsidies with legislation (H.R.1216 and S.593) that applies countervailing duty law to that non-market economy; and we need to partner with the E.U., Canada and Japan in a WTO case focusing on China's lack of intellectual property protection."

Noting that the EU and Japan sell much more to China than the U.S. does, Wilkey also called on the U.S. government for a massive export promotion program targeting China.

"We do not have five years or ten years to solve this problem," Wilkey explained. "We know that free trade properly administered benefits all of us. We must see to it that the consensus for free trade is maintained in this country. So, we look to the Administration and Congress to see to it that China plays by the rules and a workable system is preserved."

This is an article reprinted from the National Association of Manufacturers' website at www.nam.org.

From the Desk of Gary Wood

MTA WCF Administrator



MTA WCF “Springs” into action on leasing companies

I am sure you will all join together to welcome the beginnings of another summer in Michigan. People tell me they love the season changes and look forward to these changes as one of the joys of living in our wonderful state. There is something sinister, however, lurking behind the welcome change of season; the state government is trying to balance the budget!

The Michigan Tooling Association Workers’ Compensation Fund is regulated by the Department of Labor, Workers’ Compensation Agency. Until now this agency has been funded in the majority, for the public’s good through “General Budget” appropriations. As you may have noticed there is a bit of a tax shortfall as the state suffers (unlike the majority of the country) through a continuing recession caused by (among other things) the transference of many automotive related jobs to other countries and states. (In the last week of April the March unemployment figures were released and the state is at 6.9% unemployment. Michigan’s unemployment rate was only exceeded by Mississippi with a 7.0% rate).

Since there is a shortfall, the politicians have sought to avoid state layoffs and service cutbacks on their shift, by seeking other ways to finance the operation of agencies essential to the public’s well being.

One plan is to transfer the tax from the general budget to a fee based system that basically causes organizations such as the Fund to pay additional fees to operate. This transfers the cost of the operation of a public service agency onto the backs of the businesses that are regulated into using this service if they are to continue to operate (cash strapped businesses that are already struggling to stay alive in our newly formed “service sector society”).

While the voices are gathering to try to stop the bureaucratic shell game, the chance of stopping the transfer of funding is an uphill battle. I have sought out and been appointed to the commission that is studying the proposals. There are many people with diverse agendas on the committee, so it will be interesting to see the final outcome.

EMPLOYEE LEASING

Years ago the issue of employee leasing became a major threat to the operation of the Fund. The Department of Labor determined that self funded groups (due to the requirement for homogeneous membership) could not include employee leasing companies.

After some discussion it was determined that it was acceptable for leasing companies to join the fund(s) as long as they only leased employees to an existing member of the fund(s) and that they do not lease employees to anyone not specifically involved in the stated purpose of the particular group (like ‘tooling’ or ‘bankers’ or ‘auto dealers’). This Fund did not have an issue with that interpretation

It is “New Interpretation Time”! Apparently there is an ongoing issue in other areas of business operation that makes it advantageous to lease employees to parent corporations. While I do not pretend to be a tax guru for the members, the gist I have gotten is that some businesses in the state have set up employee leasing companies to avoid SBT issues and/or State Unemployment Tax issues. Apparently the advantage is only available to companies that have dissimilar ownership between the lessor and the lessee companies.

Since the operation of SBT and SUT have nothing to do with the operation of self insured groups, we were quite surprised to receive a letter from the Workers’ Compensation Agency requiring that membership of leasing companies in group funds will be controlled by the following rules:

“... the Agency will continue to permit leasing companies to be a member of a group, if there is majority ownership of the leasing company by an existing member of the group and the leasing company leases employees exclusively to that group member at its otherwise qualifying majority owned business. The Agency defines ‘majority ownership’ to mean ownership of at least 51% of the voting stock of a corporation or authority to appoint 51% of the directors, if there is no voting stock.”

The Agency continued in their letter to afford thirty days for the Fund to divest itself of non-complying members. Before this goes to press, I will be meeting with the Agency officials to further delineate their requirements, but right now it appears we will need every member with an employee leasing agreement to comply with the requirement or face expulsion from the Fund.

Since we may not be aware of your leasing arrangements, if you have any questions about your status, call me now!

Enjoy your month and the Memorial Day Holiday; more on these topics will be included in your next month’s billing.



On the Road with Bill Hoke

MTA WCF Loss Control Coordinator



Your Rights Under USERRA Poster!

Have you ever seen the commercial for ABC Warehouse where Gordy says: our best customer is an informed customer, but we welcome uninformed customers too! When it comes to vendors, you really should be an informed customer or you will ultimately pay the price. Currently we are receiving phone calls regarding the USERRA (United Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act) poster; please take the time to read the following information before you purchase any posters. And please be aware that the same posters that the vendors are trying to sell you are free for the asking.

Attention members, this poster is not for sale. **It's free**, and even more importantly, if you get caught without it, there is **NO FINE!**

According to the federal website, each employer must post, or by other method, inform employees. The exact wording is ***"The full text of the notice must be provided by each employer to persons entitled to rights and benefits under USERRA."***

The federal page gives employers the option of how they provide that information to their employees, as stated: ***"Employers may provide the notice by posting it where employee notices are customarily placed. However, employers are free to provide the notice in other ways that will minimize costs while ensuring that the full text of the notice is provided (e.g., by handing or mailing out the notice, or distributing the notice via electronic mail)."***

They also state that failure to provide the poster or information will not lead to a monetary penalty. ***"No citations or penalties for failure to notify. An individual could ask USDOL to investigate and seek compliance, or file a private enforcement action to require the employer to provide the notice to employees."***

By now most of you have received current required posters from your Michigan Tooling Association Workers Compensation Fund's Loss Control Representative. These posters are valid. Don't be taken in by sales persons hoping to cash in on the fact that we have people serving our country. This is an annual event and every year we receive calls from concerned members regarding their responsibilities and the alleged changes in posting requirements.

Even if you have not received a phone call, you probably will

and the only thing this call is about is separating you from your money! If you don't receive the posters from the Michigan Tooling Workers Compensation Fund, they are, in fact, free from the state and federal government. In fact, most of them you can download. The trick is where you go to obtain the posters. For the information page explaining the various posters and your rights, you can go to www.dol.gov/osbp or call 888-972-7332; for the State of Michigan, you may go to www.Michigan.gov or call 517-322-1825.

On a Lighter Note

As a young man, Norton was an exceptional golfer. At the age of 26, however, he decided to become a priest, and joined a rather peculiar order. He took the usual vows of poverty and chastity, but his order also required that he quit golf and never play again. This was particularly difficult for Norton, but he agreed and was finally ordained a priest.

One Sunday morning, the Reverend Father Norton woke up and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf.

So...he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and convinced him to say Mass for him that day. As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church! At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. IT WAS A 420-YARD HOLE-IN-ONE!

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who is he going to tell?"

Have you sent in your reservation form for the **MTA 70th Annual Golf Outing and Dinner** being held on June 9th at Fox Hills Golf Club?

Remember to mail or fax yours today!!

See page 7 for details.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Columbia Marking Tools, Inc. has been notified by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, that they will soon be granted a patent on their programmable CNC scribe marking machine technology. The official patent application describes the technology as: "Apparatus and Method for Controlling a Programmable Marking Scribe." The application explains that this generally relates to marking scribes that encode data onto hard materials and more particularly to marking scribes that encode data represented by two-dimensional matrices, i.e. 2D Matrix codes.

The new marking technology will be referred to as the UID/Matrix 2D™ marking system. UID refers to the U.S. Department of Defense acronym for Unique Identification. (Reference MIL-STD-130L) On January 1, 2007, all components and parts purchased by the U.S. Department of Defense must be marked with 2D Matrix codes.

The basic design of the patent pending, programmable CNC marking system utilizes an x-y-z axes slide arrangement that is driven through precise linear ballscrews. Standard machines are all electric but air-operated units are also available for extra deep marks. The scribe head, mounted on a platen that is linked to the slides, uses a diamond stylus to quietly scribe text or graphics into hard or soft surfaces producing fully-formed lines, curves, and in this case, 2D Matrix codes. The control of the head movement is provided by a programmable controller that interfaces with standard Windows® systems using special software which allows the user to create the 2D Matrix codes.

The key element of the patent is the ability of the UID/Matrix 2D scribe marking system to, in essence, displace material in a manner leaving a specifically recessed area formed of grooves and surrounded by ridges of displaced material that to the eye, or a camera, look like round dot-like indentations. These grooves and ridges form a very reflective multifaceted data cell with extremely high contrast between the grooves and the unscribed surface to enable a vision system to clearly and accurately distinguish where the grooves are, even in the presence of extraneous interfering marks or deposits. By interfacing the highly-accurate movement of the scribe head and x-y axes with CNC control, 2D Matrix codes can be marked at very high speed with Grade "A" readability, the highest standard rating, equivalent to 1,200 reads per second with no variations.

Columbia Marking Tools is a leading designer and manufacturer of metal and plastic marking equipment including stamps,

roll marking dies, roll marking and impact marking machines, fully programmable peen/scribe marking and UID/2DMatrix™ machines, numbering heads and special marking machines.

Our congratulations and best wishes to the above member. Let us know what is happening at your company. We would like to share it with all our readers.

Legislative Update

by: *Judy Augenstein*
Legislative Consultant, Lansing



The Governor and Legislature have agreed on a new budget cutting Executive Order. The plan links fixes to the state budget with the Governor's desire to create jobs by accelerating construction projects. Universities and community colleges face a \$30 million cut in this year's budget, but they will get \$100 million for construction projects. Another \$100 million is tucked into the bill for Brownfield cleanup projects, \$70 million in state building improvements and \$8 million so the city of Detroit can tear down the ugly empty buildings around Ford Field in time for the 2006 Super Bowl.

Last month the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected Executive Order 2005-03 because they objected to how the proposal dealt with reductions to universities and colleges. The House Appropriations Committee approved the Executive Order. The new deal continues to cut colleges and universities by \$30 million, but they will get the money back if the state's financial picture improves or if the state ends the year with a surplus. The agreement clears the way for the legislature to focus on the 2005-06 Budget.

HB 4483, sponsored by Rep. Chris Ward, R-Brighton is awaiting debate by the House Commerce Committee. I am working to identify and coordinate other proposed tool and die legislation with our bill. Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland, chair, House Commerce Committee, plans to consider all the tool and die bills as a package to be considered at the same time.

Learn to use Outlook 2003 better!

If you use Microsoft Outlook on your PC, here are some helpful calendar uses to streamline your scheduling.

Automatically add holidays to your Calendar. On the Tools menu, click Options, click Calendar Options, and then click Add Holidays.

Quickly display several days side by side in Calendar. In the date picker, drag over the dates that you want to view.

Contact meeting attendees with a reminder or other message. Open the original meeting request, click the Actions menu, and then click New Message to Attendees.

FYI

Members that attended the **MTA Annual Meeting and Open House** on April 20, 2005 stated their concerns and interests regarding the state of the industry and other matters they would like the Association to address. Attendance was up from last year, but we invite you to plan to attend next year. The Association is here to meet your needs.

The new Officers of the Board of Directors were announced at the Annual Meeting. There are now 12 members:

- ❖ President—Herb Trute, **T&W Tool & Die**;
- ❖ V.P.—Leroy Lajuenesse, **L& L Machine Tool**;
- ❖ Treasurer—George Buhaj, **Avon Broach**;
- ❖ Secretary—Robert Peuterbaugh, **JPT**;
- ❖ Immediate Past President—Gerald Flannery;
- ❖ Directors—Leonard Bantleon, **Leonard Machine**;
Charles Barnes, **Paramount Boring**;
Rick Heidrich, **Richard Tool & Die**;
Mike Obloy, **Special Drill & Reamer**;
Irvin Swider, **Future Products Tool**;
Gary Theuerkorn, **Hillside Tool & Die**; &
Dennis Wilson, **Accum Matic Systems**.

We thank Chris Kirsch for his previous service as a Board Member.

We would like to thank those members that attended including: **Lincoln Die Casting** of Roseville, **Jefferson Iron Works** of Ferndale, **Star Cutter** of Farmington Hills, **Temperform Corp.** of Novi, **Prototype Tooling** of Fraser, **Dalton Industries LLC** of Waterford, **Production Tube** of Detroit and **Acorn Stamping** of Oxford.

New Board Member:

Rob Dumont has been in touch with Irvin Swider of **Future Products Tool Corporation** of Clawson. Irvin ran for a position on the MTA Board last December and has now agreed to fill the vacancy on the Board created by the resignation of Chris Kirsch and will serve as a Director of the Michigan Tooling Association. In keeping with the Association By-Laws, Irvin will serve until the next annual meeting in April 2006. He will be eligible to stand for election for a full 3-year term in December of this year.

The annual **Hourly and Salaried Wage Survey for 2005** was mailed out last month to all members. Members that participated will be receiving the results shortly.

Look for our semi-annual **Business Outlook Survey** included with this month's Tool Talk. Members have an opportunity to forecast where their industry is headed in the next six months. We look forward to your responses. The **Fourth of July Survey**, which indicates the scheduling for the holiday, is also included.

MTA has received new **Hertz** member discount cards. If you would like to request cards for your employees, please call Ron at 248-488-0300 ext. 1306 or send an e-mail to Ron at ron@mtaonline.com. Be sure to instruct your employees to present their ID card or sticker to the Hertz Rental Counter at time of car rental or when the car is returned. New cards will expire on 6/30/06.



Tee Time is Here!!!



Thursday, June 9, 2005, is the date for **Michigan Tooling Association's 70th Annual Golf Outing and Dinner**. It will be held at the Fox Hills Golf Club in Plymouth, Michigan. It begins with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m., lunch and fun at the "hole-in-one" putting contest. It ends with an evening of dinner, prizes and more prizes.

Invitations will be mailed out the first week in May. The cost of golf and dinner is \$185 per person and dinner only is \$90 per person. Check out our website at www.mtaonline.com for the latest information, reservation forms and maps.

Be sure to mail or fax your reservations in early. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't miss out on being a part of the longest running golf event in Michigan.



THE MARKETPLACE



Personnel Available:

General Manager seeks position utilizing experience in management and sales in the automotive manufacturing field. His experiences include responsibility for two automotive component manufacturing divisions, engineering, sales, purchasing, accounting and health and safety. Call Mary Box at 248-488-0300 x 1300 and ask for **Resume M05-A**.

www.mtaonline.com

Your source for the news and information you need to keep your company running it's best and staying industry competitive.



MTA List of Endorsed Service Providers

- ❖ **Assurant Benefits** (formerly Fortis) (life insurance)
MTA contacts: Mark Tyler 248-489-8505
Stella Krupansky 248-488-0300 ext. 1310
- ❖ **Blue Cross Blue Shield/BCN** (health insurance)
MTA contacts: Mark Tyler 248-489-8505
Elaine Burger-Laskosky 248-488-0300 ext. 1309
- ❖ **Federated Ins.** (property & casualty insurance)
Provider contact: Todd Bishop 800-428-4143
- ❖ **Freedom One Financial Group** (401(k) programs)
Provider contact: Leslie Goodwin 248-620-8100
- ❖ **Hertz** (car rentals)
Provider contact: 800-654-2210
- ❖ **John M. Packer & Associates** (unemployment)
Provider contact: Nathan Wiest 800-482-2971
- ❖ **LDMI/Custom Telecom** (phone/communications)
Provider contact: Kathy Schaumburger 866-332-1200
- ❖ **Lower Electric, LLC** (energy supply)
Provider contact: 866-569-3788
- ❖ **Office Depot** (office supplies)
Provider contact: Ron Sorey 800-578-9675 ext. 5721
- ❖ **Total Energy Company** (energy auditor)
Provider contact: Gary Haga 269-639-7402

Inflation Talk

CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
Mar 2005	188.6	561.9	653.4*
Feb	187.3	557.9	648.8*
Jan	186.3	554.9	645.4*
Dec	186.0	554.2	644.3*
Nov	186.8	556.3	647.1*
Oct	186.5	555.7	646.1*
Sept	185.4	552.4	642.3*
Aug	185.0	551.0	640.9*

CPI-U All Urban Consumers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
Mar 2005	183.3	579.0	638.6*
Feb	191.8	574.5	668.2*
Jan	190.7	571.2	664.4*
Dec	190.3	570.1	663.0*
Nov	191.0	572.2	665.4*
Oct	190.9	571.9	665.1*
Sept	189.9	568.7	661.6*
Aug	189.5	567.6	660.2*

Note: March 2005 CPI-W represents a 3.1% increase from one year ago; CPI-U 3.1% increase.

* Base Year 1957-59 is no longer released. BLS has issued the following conversion factors from the 82-84 year:

CPI-W—.2886674 CPI-U—.2870447

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Send to MTA—Attention: **ToolTalk** Editor.