

U.S. Department of Justice

Stephen J. Murphy United States Attorney Eastern District of Michigan

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For Immediate Release:

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June 27, 2008

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Betty Wing

FORMER UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO LOCAL 1077 OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT

A former Secretary-Treasurer of the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO Local 1077 (USW, Local 1077), formerly United Paperworkers International Union, AFL-CIO Local 1077 (PACE Local 1077), pleaded guilty today to embezzlement charges stemming from the theft of Local 1077 funds, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Ian Burg, Detroit District Director of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards.

Betty Wing, 42, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, entered a guilty plea to Embezzlement of Union Assets in the United States District Court before the Honorable Arthur J. Tarnow.

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that between July 2003 and March 2004, Wing, while acting as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 1077, devised a scheme, whereby she would pay herself for false activities she claimed to have conducted on behalf of the local, and by adding numbers to existing checks payable to herself that increased the monetary value of the checks, amounting to approximately \$6,584.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "Union members have a legitimate expectation that their leaders will not operate with their hands in the till. My office will continue to root out and prosecute labor fraud when we find it."

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Wing faces up to six months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000. Wing will also be required to make full restitution to Local 1077.

A sentencing hearing was set by Judge Tarnow for Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 2:00 P.M.

The case was investigated by Investigator Randal Cummings of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James M. Wouczyna.