

## **Now *This* Is a Benefit!**

Time Off to 'Create a Patriot' .....If you are an Employer or HR Manager in Ulyanovsk, Russia, you'd better dust off your maternity leave policy--in 9 months, you'll really need it!

The provincial government just gave workers time off this past September to help stem the declining birthrate by using the time to "create a patriot" who will be born around Russia Day, which is June 12.

The provincial holiday is called "Family Contact Day;" however, the surprised--and delighted--employees have dubbed it "Conception Day."

All public employees have the day off, and many private sector employers are giving workers free time to "do their patriotic duty." And jokesters have suggested covering the floors with mattresses and lowering the lights.

And this wasn't done in the boonies. Ulyanovsk, birthplace of Lenin, is a significant manufacturing city of 2 million on the Volga River that produces automobiles and airplanes.

To promote the day, "How to Procreate" pamphlets were even distributed in workplaces. And to further entice workers to add to their families, the local government will place the names of parents having a child conceived on Contact Day and born near Russia Day into a raffle for cars, televisions, refrigerators, and dirt bikes! But there's no gender discrimination; you can win if you have a boy--or a girl.

**Sources:** Reuters and Other News Outlets