

# LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 60, Issue 9

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Friday, November 13, 2009

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS MEMBERSHIP

**John Hovis** (UE National President) will attend this month's membership meetings. He will address various issues and answer any questions the members may have.

## NATIONAL OFFICERS DISCUSS RAIL STIMULUS

On Friday, November 6th our National Officers along with the Eastern Regional President met with representatives from Senator Casey and Specters' office and also a representative from Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper's office.

They felt this meeting should be held here in Erie to emphasize the importance to our political leaders to get involved concerning rail stimulus monies. Given the current state that we are facing here, it is important not only to secure some of this stimulus if possible, but that it comes to this community.

This was a follow-up meeting to the one that was held in Washington D.C. a few weeks ago. Everyone seems to be on the same page and according to the company, Lorenzo Simonelli has been pounding the beat and Our National Officers were pleased to know that Lorenzo was also in D.C. pursuing this very cause. This is something that could benefit both sides (union & company) so let's hope for the best.

## STEWARDS TO BE SWORN IN

Chief Plant Steward Mike Hayes will swear in the newly elected stewards. Those sworn in will be expected to follow the provisions, policies, and principals of the Union. Refer to the Constitution and By-Laws of Local 506 Article X (10).

## VOTE FOR EASTERN REGIONAL DELEGATES

Voting for the 2010 Eastern Regional Delegates will take place at this month's membership meetings. Seven candidates have been nominated. You must vote for four (4) candidates and the four receiving the most votes will serve as delegates and the remaining three will serve as alternates. Please use your sign-in card to get your ballot. Voting will conclude at the end of each meeting and the final Tally will be conducted and posted at the end of the first shift meeting.

1. **Matt McCracken**
2. **Cyndy Casey**
3. **Willie McDonald**
4. **John Milliron**
5. **Scott Duke**
6. **Roger Zaczuk**
7. **Dave Chadwell, Sr.**

## NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

### Agenda:

- National President John Hovis to address membership.
- General Business matters and Committee updates.
- Vote for Eastern Regional Delegates.
- Vote on Holiday Schedule.
- Swear in Union Stewards.

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND TIMES ARE:

**Thursday, November 19, 2009 (All meetings)**  
**7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)**  
**1:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)**  
**3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)**

# CHIEF PLANT STEWARD REPORT

On October 30th, we had our Step 2 meeting. Sixteen cases were discussed and the issues (farmouts, discipline, lean, and management doing bargaining unit work) seem to remain the same. Six of those cases were closed, six were put on hold and four will be going to Step 3. The next Step 3 meeting is scheduled for November 17th in Pittsburgh.

# BROTHERS AND SISTERS

I would like to take this time to try to give you some sense of what our union is going through at this time. To put it into perspective, consider how you (and we all have) feel when you encounter personal tragedy in your own lives. It's something that we don't necessary look forward to, but it's something that we can't avoid.

In February of this year, our previous officers were issued a ("Warn" Notice) stating that we would lose (200) employees due to a decline in business. You can only imagine, (after 5 or 6 banner years) the impact this announcement had, not only on our membership, but our communities.

This is something that our union had no control over and even though a few employees, (through early retirements) who were able to leave, that did not lessen the impact for those who lost their employment permanently.

Then, because of the enormous amount of work that had to be done in the fourth quarter of 2008, we had employees who were never placed on permanent jobs, (not our fault) ending up being impacted because some had no code of record. Then we had some employees placed on permanent jobs in areas where other employees (with more service) were already established that were never taken off temporary status. Although we (stewards & chiefs) got some of these problems straightened out, it was just another ordeal we had to deal with.

As we continue down this road, we then had to deal with the TLOW's. We had some employees who didn't want any part of these lay-offs, and others that couldn't get enough. Once again, we had no control over this situation, (other than try to keep it fair for all involved) but still we encountered problems. As much as I would like to say it ended there, I can't. We were and are still dealing with the everyday business that goes on with our union and with the company.

Just as one would think that it couldn't get any worse, it did. On September 15th, the company informed President Jim Pifer that because the business climate had not changed

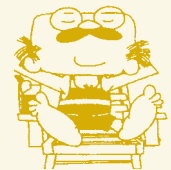
and looked to be getting worse, there would be impending lay-offs. Therefore, a second ("**WARN**" Notice) was issued and this one made the first one seem like Childs play. We are in the process of losing (**1430 employees**). This is the tragic part that I mentioned in the beginning. Thousands of lives (and communities) will be impacted because of that announcement.

The only ray of sunshine (for some employees) is the fact that the company has opened up some early retirement options that would lessen the impact on younger service employees. There were (750) employees who were eligible and some saw it as an opportunity to retire. Those who were committed to retire (if they would be effected) did not waver and have already gone. Others who could retire must wait to see if employees who are slated to retire stay or go. Then we have some that would like to retire, but because they were not effected by the current announcement, won't be able to.

So you see brothers & sisters, no matter how you look at the present situation, the sad fact is that there will be fewer employees. I know this concerned our previous officers back in February and it concerns us now. I would hope that we as union members would show some compassion toward our fellow co-workers, who for the time being will no longer be employed. Hopefully, this world wide economic crisis will turn around and business here at Transportation will rebound.

We have been working with this company, soliciting our political leaders, in hope that they will help to secure some stimulus money for this plant. We will keep you informed as we receive information.

## RECENT UE 506 RETIREES



*Building #2*

**Samuel E. Johnson**

*Building #5*

**Thomas Foote**

**Mitchell E. Lee**

**Craig Webb**

*Building #6*

**Randy Brandt**

**William Piano**

*Building #7*

**David Rawa**

*Building #10*

**Carl Kosnik**

**Leonard Reslink**

**Carl Schrader**

*Building #12*

**James Benson**

**Lynda Upton**

*Building #60*

**James Hazen**

## OUTPLACEMENT BENEFITS MEETINGS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Pay#: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift : \_\_\_\_\_

BL: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please sign up for one of the following meeting times:

#### If you are 1st Shift, check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday, November 16, 2009 3:30 PM

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, November 17, 2009 3:30 PM

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, November 20, 2009 3:30 PM

#### If you are 2nd Shift, check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday, November 16, 2009 8:00 AM

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, November 17, 2009 8:00 AM

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, November 20, 2009 8:00 AM

#### If you are 3rd Shift, check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday, November 16, 2009 8:00 AM

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday, November 16, 2009 3:30 PM

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, November 17, 2009 8:00 AM

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, November 17, 2009 3:30 PM

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, November 20, 2009 8:00 AM

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, November 20, 2009 3:30 PM

Location: Learning Center Auditorium

Items to be covered: GE Job Loss Benefits  
Unemployment  
CareerLink Services  
COBRA

Return to the:  
Employment Office  
Bldg 42-514  
Fax: x3542

## *In Sympathy*

The Officers and Executive Board Members of UE Local 506 wish to extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Debra Thomas, Building 6**, who passed away October 19, 2009.

## Odds and Ends

- November 9th through December 4th is your opportunity to carry over any unused sick & personal time. You should have received this information in the mail, but just in case it slipped by, the number to call is **1-800-432-2099**.
- The **Annual Enrollment Period** is November 9th through November 28th. It gives you the chance to evaluate your needs and make any changes to your benefit coverage (s). The number is **1-800-252-5259**. You should have received your Focus Booklet in the mail.
- Vote on 2010 Holiday Schedule
- Basket of Cheer Tickets on Sale (see your chief or union stewards).

## REMINDER TO RECENT RETIREES

To the members who recently retired, please understand that until the **Union Hall** is officially notified by the company that you are indeed retired, your Strike Defense Fund Refund cannot be generated. Because of the number of employees leaving, we are experiencing backlogs that this Union has no control over. As we receive this information, we will expedite them as soon as possible.

## RERUN (COBRA NOTICES)

As stated in Octobers leaflet, if you (retirees) have received a notice from **Ceridian** about expired or cancelled insurance, **Disregard Them**. You are covered under your defined benefit plan.

## UNITY COUNCIL HERE TO HELP

The Unity Council was formed to help address discrimination and harassment issues in the Plant. If you have a need to talk with someone from the Council you can reach them at the following numbers:

Chairperson Cyndy Casey, Bldg. 6	824-0150 (pager) or 725-2417(Home)
Don Brown, Bldg. 63	490-4433 (cell)
Scott Duke, Bldg. 12	875-6239 (shop – 2nd shift)
Tim Newara, Bldg. 10-26	875-6054 (shop-days)
Rich Laskowski	875-2348
UE LOCAL 506 HALL	899-3108

# SPORTS SHORTS



## 10th Annual "Turkey Tournament" Co-Ed Volleyball Competition

Where: Iroquois High School Gym  
4301 Main St., Lawrence Park

When: Sunday, November 22nd, 2009  
Intermediate High & Low Starts @ 9:00 AM  
(Important! Captains Meeting is at 8:45 a.m. sharp)  
Gym Opens AT 8:15 A.M.

Who: Men & Women of UE – Family & Friends  
Three Divisions

- 1) Intermediate High
- 2) Intermediate Low
- 3) Recreational – Have Fun!

Fee: \$25.00 Per Person includes T-shirt  
\$15.00 Per Person without T-Shirt

- Each team must have at least (1) UE Member on roster. At least (2) women must be on the court at all times.
- Roster must be submitted to the Union Hall or a Sports Committee Member **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY – NOVEMBER 13th, 2009.**

- Committee reserves the right to change division selected.

Six players min. per team • Limited to 12 teams only

**Questions? Call Roger Zaczyk (Days) 824-0146 or  
Matt McCracken (Evenings) 875-5963**

Make checks payable to UE 506 Sports Committee

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Thanksgiving Theme)

Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Captains Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Name)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

### HAVING A PERSONAL PROBLEM?

\*Please note – Dave Adams has a new pager number:  
**824-0141**

Call when you need guidance or advice.

Call when you need information or a referral

Call when you need help – Call NOW

Contact UE Local 506 Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

**Liaison Dave Adams at Page No. 824-0141 or  
Call an EAP Counselor at 875-4EAP (Ext. 4327)**

### AA MEETING SCHEDULE

Where: Building 2-1, Bay A-Column 8, Mezzanine

When: Thursdays 1<sup>st</sup> Shift 11:30 am

2<sup>nd</sup> Shift 7:30 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Shift 3:00 am

# Happy Thanksgiving



## DECEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 R.A.G.E. MEMBERSHIP MEETING CSF MEETING	10	11	12
13	14	15 E-BOARD MEETING	16	17 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	18 RAGE BOARD MEETING	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		