



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 60, Issue 2

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Friday, February 13, 2009

GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

UE Local 506 will conduct nominations for all general offices during membership meetings on Thursday, **February 19, 2009** at the UE Local 506 Union Hall. Times for the meetings are 7:20 a.m. (third shift), 1 p.m. (2nd shift), and 3:20 p.m. (1st shift). Also, during the February meetings, the membership will select alternate-tellers for the General Election.

The election will take place on **Thursday, March 26, 2009** at the UE Local 506 Union Hall. The polls will be open from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Voting machines will be used for all offices except Executive Board Member at Large, which will be by paper ballot.

Absentee ballots for those members scheduled for temporary military leave will be available on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at the Union Hall and must be returned to the Hall no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2009.

Nominations for the following offices will be taken from the floor at each meeting. They are: Business Agent, President, Chief Plant Steward, Vice President/ Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Board Member at Large (three to be elected), Sergeant at Arms, Trustees (two to be elected).

By virtue of this election, the Business Agent, President and Chief Plant Steward will be delegates to the Eastern Regional meetings and to the UE National Convention.

FROM THE CHIEF PLANT STEWARD

By Mike Hayes

The last Step II Meeting was held on January 9th. Thirty eight cases were heard: we ended up with twenty two cases closed, twelve cases put on hold and four cases sent to Step III. The last Step III Meeting was held on the 15th of January in Pittsburgh. Eight cases were heard: one was settled and seven went to a docket number. The next Step III will be take place in Cleveland on February 17th. The next Step II will be held on February 27th. As of February 5th we had a total of 49 grievances plant-wide. Most of those will be heard at the meeting on the 27th.

MANAGEMENT BY FORCE

For over three quarter of a century Erie GE Workers have been dedicated towards meeting critical deadlines to satisfy the business's all too important customer commitments. Decade after decade, year after year, there have been examples of GE management praising their workforce for producing high-quality products while meeting on-time deliveries. **With their focus on the customer**, Erie workers have stepped up time and time again working harder, faster and longer to meet those critical deadlines - all without the need for mandatory overtime.

So knowing the history of the Plant, we have to wonder why the company now finds it necessary to implement a new overtime policy. Why rather than confronting the real impediments that are holding up the schedule, like engineering and material-flow, the company chooses to engage in "Management by Force", threatening new disciplinary measures on the very people who have "saved their bacon" over the years. We don't know why they are acting irrationally but we do know we have to change their minds on this matter.

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

Agenda:

- The first order of business will be Nominations for all UE Local 506 General Offices. (See article above for more details)**
- Also, the floor will be open for nominating tellers to assist the Election Committee during the March 26, 2009 General Elections (7 to be selected)
- Officers' Reports, Committee updates and general business matters.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND TIMES ARE:

Thursday, February 19, 2009 (All meetings)

7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)

1:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)

3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

REPORT FROM BUILDING 12

By Divisional Chief Steward Dennis Konieczko

As things progress in Building 12, some problems continue to escalate. For instance: there are ongoing farmouts, prices are being cut and worker to management communications is still lacking. These are areas of concern that we are pursuing.

We're also still having problems with workers getting the right payments - and this after all of the "help us out days". I reiterate our progress on getting the company to cooperate is still an issue.

Regarding these matters, we need to stick together and continue to take the right stand so they can finally be resolved. As always, I will continue to communicate with the Building 12 Stewards and Alternates, who all do a fine job representing their area.

INCOME AND EXTENSION AID Q&A

Q. What is Income Extension Aid (IEA)?

A. **Income Extension Aid is a negotiated benefit available to financially help GE Workers when temporarily or permanently lack of work.**

Q. How does Income Extension Aid (IEA) work?

A. **Hourly workers with at least one or more year of service have an IEA Account based on one week's pay for every year of service and a 1/4 *week's pay for each additional 3 months of service. There is a minimum benefit of 4 weeks pay as long as you meet the one year requirement.**

**Your GE weekly pay includes your regular base pay (STAT Average for Pieceworkers) plus any nightshift bonus.*

Q. Is there a waiting week before I can receive IEA?

A. **Technically no, however, to receive IEA for a given week you must provide proof that you are receiving unemployment benefits for that particular week. Since Pennsylvania requires one waiting week at the beginning of every benefit year – you will not qualify for IEA Benefits for that week either.**

Q. How are IEA benefits paid out?

A1. **Prior to exhausting all Unemployment Benefits, the IEA payment will equal 75% of your weekly pay when combined with any Pennsylvania State or Federal Unemployment Compensation. Partial week earnings from GE are also factored in to the equation.**

Example: Weekly pay

before layoff = \$900.00 x 75% = \$675.00

State Unemployment

Compensation maximum = \$558.00

Income Extension aid will pay you \$117.00 per week

A2. **After exhaustion of Unemployment Benefits the IEA benefit will equal 75% of your pay.**

Q. What is the process for claiming a weekly IEA payment request?

A. **IEA Applications are available in Building 42-5, Room 534. They have also been distributed to all Local 506 Board Members. The completed form can be submitted in Building 42-5 or they can be faxed to 239-278-2190. Don't forget to include a copy of your *UC check or proof of UC exhaustion. If there are any questions or problems with your application, you will be contacted by a customer service representative, so please be sure to include a phone number or email address where you can be reached.**

*Note: If you have your UC benefit check direct deposited or if you request a UC debit card, you will not receive a check stub to submit with your IEA Application, however, Harrisburg will send you a letter within 7-10 days after you file a claim. You will need that letter to submit with your IEA form.



On Friday, January 30, 2009 President Fusco accepted a plaque from Lawrence Park Police Chief Gerald Pfadt and Officer John Morell. The plaque inscription read: **Presented to U.E. Local 506 in appreciation of their support for the Lawrence Park Police Departments "Invite-A-Cop" program.**

From its inception, the Local has provided financial aid for this annual program, which provides a positive means to graduates, guests and their parents, to say no to serving alcohol to underage people at their (graduation) parties. To date they have had 100% response of no underage drinking at the parties they were invited to.

RETIRES DONATE DUES TO CHARITY

To help meet 4th Quarter customer commitments a number of retirees were recently asked to put their safety shoes back on and return to work in Bldg. 10. While back in the shop they created their own checkoff system and paid dues each week they worked. As a result, they collected a grand total of \$430.00 and asked that the money be donated to the Lower East Side Sports Center run by retired Local 506 Member **Matt DeForce**.



Jim “Muggsy” Mulligan, presents a \$430.00 cash donation to **President Frank Fusco** on behalf of himself and retirees **Larry Benek, Gary Bliss, Jim Sider, Jim Ardillo, Dan Ficarra, Butch Glass, Rich Jaworski, Dick Overdorff, Joe Mikowski, Dan Foster, Bill Shafer, Dave “Astro” Astemborski, John Davis and Ken Kaliszewski**



Another cold and blustery day in Erie yet these hardy Local 506 Members (and Mrs. McLaughlin) took part in the Martin Luther King March (L to R) **Don Way, Mike Hayes, John Taccone, Mike Michaelson, Dale Barney, Otis Barnes, Denny and Colleen McLaughlin**. Picture courtesy of **Don Brown** who also participated.

REPORT FROM Building 18C

By Chief Divisional Steward Greg Engel

It’s been five months since I last had the pleasure of writing on behalf of 18C. Many things have happened in that short time, here are some recent issues...

Our harness area and wire shop are infamous for farm-outs. Through the Job Preservation Steering Committee, I have recently started requesting and receiving information regarding work identified on the farm-out notices. We have also started development of the UK Aux cab / Inverter. Some of the new “technology” parts that go onto these cabs are beginning to come in from outside vendors. With help from the JPS Committee, I have faith that we will see not only some of the harnesses come back but also some of the new parts being introduced. I think the second floor device area would be an ideal place to produce these parts.

Our LEAN area continues to be a topic of conversation. Most recently, due to some temporary LOW’s, we had a realignment to two shifts in the Aux cab / Inverter areas. It seems as though our management team felt it was easier to disrupt 30 lives for 12 weeks than “manage” three shifts with an unbalanced line. We also had a challenge passed on again (for the third time in a year) to our “Flow Leaders” to show justification in Takt time reduction. So far this challenge has not been met.

The latest issue we have been dealing with is the company’s new policy of borrowed employees. We told the company two and half years ago that our work should be considered as Class One assembly work, to which they firmly disagreed. But suddenly our Class Two and Three assemblers are now qualified to do R-22 Class One work. I know I’m not the only 18C assembler wondering how this makes sense.

As I conclude here, I have a message for all our members. The next months are going to be trying on everyone. Not everything you hear is going to be accurate. Remain united and use your steward system; they have the true story about the issues in this plant.

Recent UE 506 Retirees



- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bldg. #5
Marlene Babay | Bldg. #12
Daniel O’Hara |
| Bldg. #6
Sheila Ellis | Bldg. #18-T
Gary Nordin |

ACTIVE UE LOCAL 506 SERVICE DATA UPDATE

By way of explanation for the members hired since last year, the Union annually request data from the Company that shows how many “active” workers there are in each service range. The following data reflects members on active service as of January 27, 2009.

Service (Whole Years)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
# of Employees (UE 506)	495	213	13	484	289	169	10	83	39	21	42	52	22	15	45	9	22	29	77	86	88	20	27	17
Service (Whole Years)	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	
# of Employees (UE 506)	20	14	17	35	59	60	92	77	51	74	274	329	127	104	124	47	18	15	5	6	5	1	2	

FORMER LOCAL 506 OFFICER JOHN WASSELL DIES AT 84



Former Local 506 President **John Wassell, Jr.** died Monday, January 12, 2009 at Hamot Medical Center. He retired from GE-Erie in 1985 with 38 years service to his Union and to GE. John held the Office of Local 506 President from 1975 to 1976. He also served as Chief Plant Steward between 1968-1972 when, according to a May 14, 1986 UE NEWS story, “His abilities and

convictions were tested under fire, as he helped lead the Local through the long and bitter 1969 Strike.”

The article went on to state, “John’s devotion to the UE and its principals of militant rank and file unionism were always beyond question. His commitment to UE and what it stands for was forged in the difficult period of the 1950’s when the existence of our Union was threatened by an alliance of powerful forces, who wanted to replace UE with a weak, company-oriented union.”

The last time the 506 NEWS staff spoke to John was on September 18, 2004 when Brother Wassell was asked to speak at a Pa State Labor History event honoring former President **John Nelson**. In his impassioned speech he recounted how he, as a young member and steward, couldn’t wait to go to membership meetings to hear John Nelson speak. Wassell said of Nelson, “He was the best President Local 506 had or ever will have”. With the passing of John Wassell, we are reminded that he too was one of the “best” leaders our membership has ever known and respected.

John is survived by his wife, Audrey Jean Day Wassell, a son, John Neil Wassell and his wife Carole, one daughter, Karen Marzka, one granddaughter, Samantha Moore, and her father, James “Jim” Moore. Also surviving are one brother, Kenneth Wassell and his wife Kaya, one sister, Anastasia Stonick, and several nieces and nephews.

SPORTS SHORTS

By Denny McLaughlin

The Sports Committee is accepting applications for the 7th annual 506 sponsored VA-VS Bowling Tournament. This will be held at Eastway Bowling Lanes on Sunday, February 22, 2009 – **applications must be at the Hall by 4 pm today.** Bowling will begin at noon. Even if you don’t plan to bowl that day, stop over and visit and participate in the Silent Auction that our local Veterans’ groups are sponsoring.

Our UE Local 506 Bowling Tournament is scheduled to take place at Eastway Lanes on Saturday April 4th, 2009 @ 11AM. This tourney is open to all UE members, past and present. Those applications are in the shop, but you can also stop at the Hall or see your Chief Steward.

MARCH 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 DISTRIBUTE CANDIDATES STATEMENTS	5 BALLOT POSITION DRAWING 3:20pm	6	7
8	9	10	11 R.A.G.E. MEETING	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 CSF MEETING 9:30 am	19 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 LOCAL 506 GENERAL ELECTIONS	27 R.A.G.E. BOARD MEETING	28
29	30	31				