

LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 60, Issue 6

© 21 Birosck Printing Co. Inc.

Friday, June 12, 2009

NEWS AND VIEWS

By President Jim Pifer

It's been a busy month since my last article. I'm sure what is first and foremost on most U.E 506 members' minds is what's going on with our wages. Remember, as we continue to meet with the company and the dynamics change, we will continue to get the E-board together to discuss this serious issue and form recommendations based on the latest information.

Here is the latest (please keep in mind things may have changed from the time I wrote this article). On Monday May 18th, the company told the officers they wanted a wage freeze for the remainder of the contract, which expires June of 2011. The company also wants to revisit lean rates, code consolidation and also the possibility of a temporary work force during production bubbles. The company laid out their justification on why this unprecedented reopening of the National Agreement is so paramount. After many E-board meetings, and just as many officers meetings with the company, this much is clear. For this to even be considered by the officers or the E-board, the company has to put some very serious job security measures on the table along with other important matters that the E-board wants resolved. As the next couple of weeks unfold, we will do our best to keep the membership informed through our Steward system. It is important for the members to realize that if this wage freeze proposal by the company falls short of the officer's and executive board's expectations of what is fair, we will not be asking the members to accept or reject the company's request.

There's going to be lot of rumors floating around, some totally untrue and some misunderstandings of things that were said. This set of circumstances has the potential to test this Local's resolve, along with the character of the membership, the leadership and the e-board.

In closing stay informed through your steward, don't get caught up in the rumors and be prepared to give input and assistance to your Union brothers, sisters, executive board and officers.

CONVENTION DELEGATES ELECTED



America's Most Valuable Union

YESTERDAY • TODAY • TOMORROW

The following UE Local 506 members were elected to serve as rank and file delegates to the 71st UE National Convention.

Cyndy Casey – Building 12
Mark Haller – Building 6
Jason Trayer – Building 6
Roger Zaczyk – Building 10

The Convention will take place in New Haven, Connecticut from September 13 through September 17, 2009. The above rank and file delegates will attend the Convention with **President Jim Pier, B.A. Wayne Burnett and Executive Board members Giovanni Caputo, Ron Dombrowiak, Leo Grzegorzewski, Steve Hyzer, Dennis Konieczko and Matt McCracken.**

JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

Agenda:

- Nominations will be taken for trustee (2 year term).
- Update on recent meetings with the company and executive board.
- Committee reports, Officer's updates and general business matters will follow.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND TIMES ARE:

Thursday, June 18, 2009 (All meetings)

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

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

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

CHIEF STEWARDS REPORT

By Chief Plant Steward Mike Hayes

On May 29th we had our step two meeting; 31 cases were heard. They involved discipline, farm-outs, overtime issues, working out of class and code, and laying off members who were qualified to bump less senior employees not assigned class and category in a timely manner. We ended up with 9 holds, 16 cases closed and 6 cases going to step three. Our last step three, we had 3 cases returned to step two for resolve - one case is a back pay issue in which the employee will receive a settlement of \$900.00 owed to him. The other 2 cases involved discipline with a warning and a week off. We will have another look and if the union still feels it was unjust, we will appeal. The other case was a code reduction from 17 code to a 15 code; we want the 17 code as it always was. I have not been notified concerning a date for June's step two, however, we should know the date and time by the membership meeting. The stewards' classes will be held on June 23, 2009. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there.

BUILDING 5 UPDATE

By Chief Divisional Steward Dale Rosenthal

Greetings from Building 5! A lot like everywhere else, we've gotten slow on work and went down to two shifts. We are experiencing TLOW's to the tune of about 150 members a week. Even though we do have these people laid off, the company is continuing to bring in the UK platform as a fully welded backbone. As a member of the Job Preservation Committee, I along with other committee members will pursue bringing that and other work into the plant.

The platform area has been going through some changes for lean implementation. Some of the parts area will follow soon after. And on the motor side of the building, a couple of areas were hit very hard when the DC locomotive orders changed to AC.

Last, but not least, I'm sure that you've all heard that the company would like to move station one work from Building 10 to Building 5. Our officers are still discussing that matter with the company.

In Sympathy

The Officers and Executive Board Members of UE Local 506 wish to extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Ronald Kosin, Building 18C**, who passed away May 4, 2009 and **Robert W. Phillips, Building 6**, who passed away May 15, 2009.

BUILDING 6 UPDATE

By Chief Divisional Steward Patte Dillen

The struggle continues: "Let there be no doubt that we're still dealing with a "Them & Us" company.

- * The company gives a "golden handshake: to their management personnel, but manipulates our layoff procedure to get as few SERO's for our members as possible.
- * The company laid off our members in areas where the schedule is up, then blames us for not getting production out on time.

Bring back our work!

- * The company throws away thousands of dollars, in extra expense on farm-outs due to capacity, even though we have the capacity to do the work at a lower rate.
- * The company brings in poor quality parts from vendors that they need us to repair, then tells us our percent on product is down. It would be a lot higher if we were doing the work.
- * The company eliminates 3rd shift to save on power (they say) when we have a perfect location for wind generation which would probably be a tax write-off and more eco-friendly.
- * We're still struggling with some of our management's threats and harassment about working faster. Our hands can only do so much, their hovering over us will not get the job done.

On a good note: we are getting five 760014's and two 580116's recalled to Building 6 and the company has also agreed to post some of our open jobs.

We must continue our commitment to all our UE 506 Brothers & Sisters. Remember we are the Union.

TRUSTEE ELECTION NOTICE

Trustee Mark Watson resigned for personal reasons therefore a special election will need to be held during the August membership meetings to fill his vacancy.

Nominations - Any member in good standing can be nominated to run for Trustee provided they meet the provisions of Article V of the UE Local 506 Constitution. Nominations for the Office of Trustee can be made at the beginning of the August Membership Meetings. The successful candidate will fill the remainder of the 2007-2011 term of office. If you need a copy of the 506 Constitution outlining all election rules, please see your Divisional Chief Steward or stop at the 506 Hall.

GE BENEFITS PAYABLE WHILE ON LAYOFF

Laid off members receiving bills for certain GE benefits are obligated to make the contributions or risk loss of coverage. Statements sent to your home by Ceridian contain specific payment information pertaining to the benefits you are enrolled in. The following information will help you determine which benefits must be paid:

1. **Employee and dependent health, dental and vision insurance** continues regardless of seniority, for a maximum period of one year.
 - a.) The coverage continues with **no contributions** if you have three or more years of service at the time of layoff.
 - b.) The coverage continues with **your regular contributions** if you have less than 3 years of service at the time of layoff.
2. **Dependent Life Insurance (DLI)** continues up to 12 months as long as you pay the required contributions and your continuous service or service credits are maintained.
3. **Personal Accident Insurance (PAI)** continues up to 12 months as long as your continuous service or service credits are maintained. (No contributions required)
4. **Dependent Personal Accident Insurance (DPAI)** continues up to 12 months as long as your continuous service or service credits are maintained. (No contributions required)
5. **Long Term Disability** continues up to 31 days for workers on permanent lack of work. Coverage continues during a temporary lack of work, (No contributions required)
6. **A Plus Term Life Insurance (GUL and Term)** continues for up to 12 months as long as you pay required contributions and your continuous service or service credits are maintained.
7. **Health Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA)** participation ends when your pay ends. You may continue participation through the end of the year on an after-tax basis through COBRA if your FSA balance is greater than the remaining contributions due the rest of the year. By making contributions, you preserve the right to resume participation when you return to work. You can still submit expenses incurred during participation.
8. **Long term Care Insurance** (nursing home) coverage continues with regular contributions.

ODDS AND ENDS

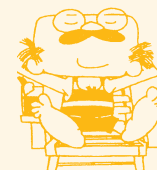
- We have been receiving calls concerning child support payments being taken out of GE Paychecks and IEA payments for the same week. I received a call From corporate on 6/4/09 stating that this problem should be taken care of as of 6/14/09. This will be done automatically and no further action need be taken. Any previous problems concerning this matter or any over payments must be taken up with the Support Office.
- There is A list of new Prior Authorizations at CVS Caremark effective 7/1/09. Letters were mailed by CVS Caremark to existing users impacted by this change On May 15th. This information can be obtained by going on benefits.ge.com or <http://webmail.aol.com/42951/aol/en-us/mail/PrintMessage.aspx>
- On behalf of the officers have a great shutdown and 4th of July holiday.
– Wayne

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. 12	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

Recent UE 506 Retirees



Bldg#2
Burdette Hildum
Donna McKinney

Bldg#6
Roberta McLaughlin

Bldg#7
Betty Runser

Bldg#10/#26
Kenneth Avey
Joel Wittman

Bldg#12
Paul Huff

Bldg#18-C
James Noonan

PENSION ESTIMATES EASY TO ACCESS

Looking (or hoping) to retire some time soon but you'd first like to know what your monthly pension benefit would be? It's easy to access that information by calling the GE Pension Estimate line at **(800) 848-2964**. All you'll need when you call the automated line is your Social Security number, your *Personal Identification Number (same PIN # used with your Savings and Security account) and, if married, your spouse's date of birth if you want an estimate to be calculated with a Surviving Spouse option.

***If you need a PIN call*(800) 432-4313**

Here's the process you will follow:

1. You will be asked to enter your Social Security number and then hit the # key.
2. Enter your Personal Identification Number and then hit the # key.
3. An annual rate of pay will be given – follow the instructions if you want to enter a different amount. Press 1 if the amount is correct.
4. Enter your spouse's date of birth and then hit the # key.

5. Enter the month you wish to retire then hit the # key.
6. Enter the year you wish to retire then hit the # key
7. If you will be under the age of 60 on the retirement date you entered, you will hear a message regarding SERO eligibility. Then press 1.
8. You will then enter a percentage you assume your pay will increase between now and when you retire (enter 0% if you are looking to retire in the near future; maybe 3% to 5% if you are not looking to retire soon). Then press 1.
9. You will be asked if you want a written confirmation of your estimate and S&SP savings. Press 1 for yes; 2 for no (We advise you press 1 so you can review all of the data).
10. You will hear your pension estimate and, if eligible, an estimate of your pension supplements.
11. Press 1 to repeat the estimate.
12. Press 2 to have another estimate calculated.
13. Press 3 to hear your current Savings and Security Account balance.
14. To project your S&SP balance in the future you can enter from 0 to 12 percent and hit the # key. You will hear the projected account balance.

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 1st Shift 11:30 am
 2nd Shift 7:30 pm
 3rd Shift 3:00 am

SPORTS SHORTS



On Sunday, June 14th, the Erie Firefighters Union is reviving the VA 5K Run/Walk. If you are interested in volunteering or participating, contact **Matt McCracken** at (ext. 5963).

The Sports Committee is planning the UE Golf Tournament for Sept.13th at Riverside. Details to follow.

JULY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 SHUTDOWN	2 SHUTDOWN	3 SHUTDOWN JULY 4th HOLIDAY	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8 R.A.G.E. MEETING	9	10	11
12	13	14 E-BOARD MEETING	15	16 MEMBERSHIP MEETING	17	18
19	20	21	22 CSF MEETING	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	