



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 61, Issue 10

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Friday, December 10, 2010

*From the
Officers and the Executive Board,
we would like to wish you and your families a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*



December Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- Update on General Business Matters
- Committee Reports

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND TIMES ARE:
Thursday, December 16, 2010 (All meetings)
 7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)
 1:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)
 3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

Nominate and Vote for Election Committee Representatives in January

The UE Local 506 Constitution was amended in December of 2002 to create an independent committee to oversee all elections including the General Elections, Chief Steward, Delegate and all Special Elections.

One representative from each Chief Steward's Division will be elected for 2011/2012 and the election will be held in the shop on Thursday January 20, 2011. Nominations for Election Committee representatives must be made at the Union Hall Office during the first full week of January (Jan. 3 to 7, 2011). Nominations will close at 4:00 P.M. on Friday January 7, 2011.

Members in good standing can nominate someone or themselves. Those making nominations will be responsible for picking up and delivering these forms to the candidate and these forms must be returned by Tuesday, January 11, 2011 (by 4:00P.M.). Those electing to run will be published in a UE Local 506 bulletin showing meetings attended, offices held and a brief statement of their qualifications.

In any contested Division, two tellers per shift by mutual consent will conduct the election. Notices of the candidate(s), dates, and voting times will be posted in prominent areas in the division between January 14th and 19th. The newly elected Election Committee Representative will be sworn in at the 1st shift membership meeting in February.

2011 Eastern Regional Delegates Elected

During the November meetings, the following people were elected and will serve as your 2011 Eastern Regional Delegates and alternate delegates. By Constitution, the Local 506 officers serve as Eastern Regional delegates.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Delegates: | Alternate Delegates: |
| Matt McCracken-B20 | Mike Michaelson-B12 |
| Roger Zaczyk-B26 | Mark Haller-B6 |
| Cyndy Casey-B6 | John Milliron-M&C |
| Tim Newara-B10 | |

(COLA) Increase

GE workers (covered under UE-GE National Contract) will receive a **four cents** cost of living adjustment effective December 20, 2010. This is in addition to the fourteen-cent increase received in June. The next and final COLA under this contract will be in April of 2011.



Exclusive offers for GE employees and their families from Peek'n Peak
Learn to Ski or Ride Beginner Package



Only \$40
 That's 40% off the regular price of \$65!

Package Includes:
90 Minute Group Lesson • Ski or Snowboard Rental
All Day Beginner Area Lift Ticket
 After you and your family have a great time with this beginner special, deduct the \$40 fee from any season pass and enjoy the entire winter on the slopes at The Peak!

As an additional special bonus receive \$5 off per person on our already discounted group prices!
 Call 716-355-4141 ext. 7310 for additional information.

	Adult		Junior	
	Public Rate	Your Rate	Public Rate	Your Rate
Weekend/Holiday				
All Day (8:30am - 10pm)	56	31	43	25
Night (4pm - close)	34	19	24	12
Weekday				
All Day (9:30am - 10pm)	47	22	36	17
Night (4pm - close)	34	19	31	12

Discounted rates are also offered on equipment rental.

Beginner package is offered daily from opening until 7:30pm for skiers and riders ages 12+. You must show a valid GE employee ID card to receive discounts. Offers are available for current employees and their families.

News N' Views

This will be my last article until the new year. A lot has happened in the past year as you all know.

If you remember way back, when I wrote my first article, I said this may or may not be the opinion of the rest of the E-Board.

First I want to thank those on the Executive Board who made the good of the Membership its number one priority when dealing with the Company.

To those of you who are frustrated with the Union because of half truths and outright lies, I'll try to address some of the most widespread misunderstandings and misconceptions.

To those of you recently called back or still waiting to be called back, think about this. How many locomotives were on the schedule to be built or projected to be built in the year in which you were hired? My guess is anywhere from 750 to 1000.

So far this year we have had over 500 people recalled from the street in a year, when orders have actually went down from when you were hired.

Farm outs are another issue that we need to set the record straight on. First off, let me say there is still a lot of work being done elsewhere that we should be doing here. That being said, I don't think the average Member, whether laid-off or working, realize how much work and effort was put forth in order for any recalls to happen.

I was hired at GE in 1977. I've been laid-off permanently many times. One time I was laid-off for 22 months.

I've had many people pass me up in service because I was laid-off and they weren't, or they were recalled and I wasn't.

When I get phone calls from people, saying, "how come people are still there with less time than me", or are "people being recalled with less service than me", "doesn't service mean anything anymore". The truth is yes, maybe more that it used to. Let me explain why.

When you get laid-off, whatever class and family you currently own or previously owned by service is how you get laid-off.

Back in the "day" if there was a lay-off and you were on progression or not off breakin, you were laid-off first, regardless of service. Also, you had to

interview for a job even if that was the exact class and code you currently held. Many people were turned down on the exact job they held simply because it was in a different building.

The only way someone can now stay with less service, or be recalled with less service than you, is if they hold or held a classification you never did.

So better than it used to be yes, perfect no, far from it.

As I started to write this article on Wednesday, December 1st, the headlines in the Erie paper read, jobless benefits to end. Nearly 2,200 Erie County residents will lose unemployment benefits this month.

With the awarding of TAA benefits, any UE 506 member who is not yet called back to work will be able to file for TRA and TAA benefits. Also, any one who is laid-off between now and July of 2012 automatically qualifies for TAA. Furthermore, if you are currently laid-off and you have not yet contacted Career Links inquiring about these benefits you are probably making a mistake.

I want to touch base on the recall of more workers. So far this year we've had 548 recalls from the street. We have 280 laid-off brothers and sisters still awaiting recall with greater than 1 year service and an additional 86 will less than 1 year service. We will be meeting with the company next week to see if we can come up with an agreement to get more of us called back.

If there was one simple solution to getting everyone called back, we would have done that long ago. I wish I could tell everyone only work 40 hours a week and everyone will be called back. It is my opinion, and the rest of the E-Board as far as I know, that if we would have taken that position earlier this year, right now we would have far fewer recalls than we've had his year. Also the Company would not be setting down with us next week to talk about recalling more of us. We will continue to do what is necessary to bring back all our laid-off Brothers and Sisters. If the situation warrants and if necessary, we will change our position whether that be tomorrow, next week or next month.

I want to thank everyone on the Executive-Board who stood up and defended our position. If we would have told our laid-off brothers and sisters last November, that most of you will be recalled in 2010

when orders are around 300 and about 350 so far in 2011, most of you including those of us still working probably would not have believed that.

The easy way out is to tell everyone to quit working, hope we get a year of 900 locomotives so everyone gets recalled and in the meantime have more and more of our work shipped to scab shops all over the Country. Like I said earlier, I was hired at GE in 1977. When I first started here there was about 12,000 people here at Erie GE, now there's less than 3,000.

In the last year your Local Union and elected leaders have been through a lot. Look around Erie and the rest of the Country, see what other Unions have gave up as far as wages and other benefits. It takes a lot of work and effort from a lot of people to maintain and improve whatever benefits we have.

Most of the Chiefs in the buildings do an outstanding job as far as representing you, as well as most of the E-Board, I thank them for that.

Next year will be just as challenging, with a contract coming up in June which by all indications, point to being the toughest negotiations since 1969. We better all rally around each other, regardless of who is leading us, or we will all lose.

Thank you,
Jim

Basket of Cheer Raffle

The "Basket of Cheer" raffle will take place after the first shift meeting. See your Steward or Chief Steward for tickets.

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. 5 (shop - 1st shift)
- Tim Newara, Bldg. 10-26 602-4132 (shop-days)
- Rich Laskowski 875-2348
- UE LOCAL 506 HALL 899-3108

In Sympathy

The Officers and Executive Board of UE Local 506 wish to extend our sincere condolences to the families and friends of any 506 members that may be mourning the loss of a love one.

HAVING A PERSONAL PROBLEM?

Dave Adams 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 6, 150 Conference Room
 When: Thursdays 1st Shift 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm
 2nd Shift 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm
 3rd Shift

JANUARY 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5 L.A.C. MEETING	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 R.A.G.E. MEMBER-SHIP MEETING	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Day	18 E-BOARD MEETING	19 618 MEMBER-SHIP MEETING	20 506 MEMBER-SHIP MEETINGS	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 R.A.G.E. BOARD MEETING	29
30	31					