



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 61, Issue 4

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Friday, May 14, 2010

Young Activist Program Draws Interest (B.A.)

As you have been reading in the past couple of newspapers, the National Union is seeking young people who are willing to get involved to help sustain the future of this Union and also become active in their community.

In today's world, where an individual may go through several career changes, their interests and concerns in the workplace may be different than what we thought was important.

The one thing that we can't afford not to do is educate these potential future leaders as to the struggles and the sacrifices that this Union and many other Unions have made. We must remember the reasons that Unions were started in the first place. The bosses would use every tactic possible (men against women, young against old, white against black or other minorities) to divide us.

Also, a safe working environment was a major part of the struggle to ensure that workers could return home safely after a hard days' work.

During the recent Eastern Regional Meeting held in Monroeville, it was refreshing and exciting to see young people who have stepped up to participate in this program. There were sixteen young members from six different states, representing nine different locals.

We're happy to say that some of our members are getting involved and others showing strong interest. If you would like to know more about the program, talk to your Chief Steward or call the Union Hall at 899-3108.

Memorial Day - May 31st

Retirements Slowing Down (B.A.)

Finally, after months of going through an economic crisis that took a toll on this country and our membership, we are beginning to see a slowdown in retirements out of our Local.

Even with over five hundred employees retiring, we still lost a significant amount of employees due to this worldwide meltdown. Fortunately, with the company offering early retirement packages, the impact was somewhat lessened but still devastating.

For those who took advantage of this opportunity, I'm sure there are many grateful employees who benefited from your decision.

As we entered into the new year, we were skeptical as to what direction the economy was headed, but continue to hope that it will turn in our favor.

We are beginning to see some recalls, and anytime people get called back to work, it is a good thing. It's our job to get people back to work and whatever part you can play to make that happen will make us a better Union.

May Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- General Business Matters
- Committee Updates

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND TIMES ARE:

Thursday, May 20, 2010 (All meetings)
7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)
1:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)
3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

News N Views

By President Jim Pifer

Union Continues Fight for TAA Benefits

After repeated denials, the U.S. Department of Labor has finally agreed to reconsider its 2009 decision denying trade adjustment assistance sought by union officials last year for the nearly 1000 laid off GE workers. I originally filed a petition for TAA benefits with the Department of Labor on July 1, 2009 shortly after the first round of lay-offs at the plant. The Department denied certification for the benefits in 2009 and again in early 2010.

We are encouraged by the recent decision. We made a commitment to do everything we could to assist these workers and their families get back on their feet. There are no guarantees here but we are going to continue this fight to the end. The benefits sought include funds for education, training, health care benefits and other compensation for workers whose jobs were lost as a result of foreign trade.

Following the last negative determination in January, the union hired Erie lawyer Ronald DiNicola, who filed a complaint in New York City before the United States Court of International Trade against the Secretary of Labor. DiNicola also filed a new petition for benefits before the Department in Washington, D.C. In papers filed with the Court recently, the Secretary of Labor agreed to a voluntary remand of the case to the Department for further investigation and redetermination. The Department has until June 15 to render a further decision in the case.

Chief Plant Steward's Shop Talk

On April 30th we had our Step II Meeting. 32 cases were heard, several cases were resolved, where employees were added where needed per requested numbers. Some of the other cases were: farm-out, exempts, doing bargaining work, discipline action, safety issues, and working out of class and code.

We ended up with 20 cases that were resolved, seven that are on hold and 5 letters. Grievance cases 71 to 120 were discussed at the Chief Stewards Meeting on May 5th in preparation for a Step II meeting later this month.

We have a Step III scheduled on May 25th. Twelve cases will be heard. The meeting will be in Pittsburgh

at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

As you know they have been recalling people. According to Beth Robinson as of May 7th there are still 80 more people yet to be recalled.

The Union hall has been experiencing an extremely high call volume due to people calling to inquire about their position on the recall list. Which we won't know until GE releases that information.

Thanks (B.A.)

This thanks goes out to all the members who attended the "Worker Memorial Day" on the 28th of last month.

President Pifer as well as other invited speakers gave short but well deserved comments about employees who lost their lives (while trying to support their families) in the workplace.

This should be a reminder to all of us the importance of a safe working environment and how we should strive to make sure that safety is our number one concern.

Members to Vote on Proposed Amendment Changes (B.A.)

As noted in last month's newspaper, there were two constitutional amendments changes proposed. These proposals will be read at the May Membership Meetings.

The Executive Board will make a recommendation on these changes and the members present at the meetings will have the opportunity to accept or reject them.

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

Your Safety Coordinators

Operation Prevention is a Union/Employee developed program to assist in education and training and to promote Safety in the work place.

The Program's Mission is simple:

"This program is part of our shared goal to transfer ownership of the safety program to the work force and, through that transfer of ownership, to create an atmosphere that is conducive to zero injuries by increasing safety awareness and improving the safety attitude of employees".

The Business Leader decides who will be asked if they would like to attend an Operation Prevention session based on the following:

- In place of discipline for a safety work rule violation.
- A near miss incident that warrants discussion.
- A history of injuries or occurrences.
- To help bring out work issues in a non-threatening environment.
- Or someone may volunteer to attend.

The OP Team consists of the area's Safety Coordinator, two or three hourly employees and the participating employee. This session is intended to be completely private and confidential. The session is also designed to be free from interruptions.

The OP Team will help implement corrective actions and will be responsible for following up with the employee until both the OP Team and the employee have agreed that no additional benefit can be derived from continuing. At that time, the OP Team will close its file and advise the Business Leader that the employee has successfully completed the program. There will be no further action taken.

From May 31, 1996 thru February 2, 2010, there have been 625 OP sessions offered. Of this, 574 were accepted and conducted. This program currently has a non-recurrence rate of 97 %.

Thank you to all the employees who have participated in Operation Prevention to help make the plant the safest shop possible. Anyone who would like to have more information should contact their Safety Coordinator or Safety Steering Committee member.

Proposed Amendment Changes

AMEND ARTICLE IX SECTION 1

Presently Reads: The members of each recognized Division represented by the Union shall nominate and elect a Divisional Chief Steward to represent the Division on the Local Executive Board and the Local Grievance- Negotiating Committee.

Any member who has served as Steward or Alternate Steward for at least one year may be nominated and elected to the position of Divisional Chief Steward, provided he/she is permanently working in the division. The first paragraph of Article V, Section 1, Items "A" through "G" shall also apply.

Proposed Change: The Members of each Recognized Division represented by the Union shall nominate and elect a Divisional Chief Steward **and Alternate Divisional Chief** to represent the Division on the Local Executive Board and the Local Grievance-Negotiating Committee.

The Chief and Alternate shall run together on one ticket to both be elected to serve their Division. Alternate Divisional Chief Steward will perform the duties of Divisional Chief Steward only when the Divisional Chief Steward is unavailable to perform such duties.

Any member who has served as steward or Alternate Steward for at least one year may be nominated and elected to the position of Divisional Chief Steward **or Alternate Divisional Chief Steward**, provided he/she is permanently working in the Division. The first paragraph of Article V, Section 1, Items "A" through "G" shall also apply.

AMEND ARTICLE IX SECTION 3

Presently Reads: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS - Nominations and elections of Divisional Chief Stewards shall be held during the month of January.

Proposed Change: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS - Nominations and elections of Divisional **and Alternate Divisional** Chief Stewards shall be held during the month of January.

ARTICLE V (NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS) Section 9, page 15

Presently Reads: Tellers shall disregard bullet voting and write-ins.

Proposed Change: To remove **(bullet voting and)** Will read: Tellers shall disregard write-ins

RECENT RETIREES



Denis T. Wade
 Chester F. Welch
 Cleveland Wertz (Deceased)
 Thomas A. Yusaage
 Frank Olszewski
 Jeffrey Ankiel
 M. William Graham
 David Hinkle
 Steven P. Bohun
 Lester W. Yokom
 John M. Agnew
 Clyde Baldwin
 Christine Beaumont
 Gloria J. Bird
 George J. Blattenberger
 Jeffrey W. Brown
 Richard Brozell
 Kenneth Burns
 Timothy Carris
 Albert A. Courteau
 Kenneth M. Daub
 David L. Dean
 James Estok
 Karl L. Vivier
 David E. Groenendaal
 James Harris
 Kelly G. Hilliker
 David Ivan
 Frank Jablunski
 George R. Kerns
 Thomas E. Knapp
 Deborah J. Konieczko
 Donald Konieczko
 Ronald E. Kowalczyk
 Robert A. Leamer
 Terry L. Leeper
 David L. Long
 Richard Poloski
 Michael J. Roth
 Kert L. Sammons
 Norbert A. Schneider
 James S. Singer
 Roger L. Sybrant
 Dewayne H. Thomas
 James A. Wolfe
 Thomas M. Wonner
 William F. Wozniak
 Keith H. Allen
 John Benson
 Robert W. Bird
 Vincent R. Cammaroto
 Jorge L. Caraballo
 Donna M. Cass
 Bruce C. Connelly
 L.B. Cooley
 Lee W. Dade
 Gary A. Dearbeck

Kathleen Decker (Deceased)
 George Dobson
 Gary J. Duris
 Rebecca A. Fitzgerald
 Mary L. Gorny
 David A. Hawley
 Larry D. Hough
 Kathleen Kaliszewski
 Charles K. Lawton
 Mary A. Lubin
 Michael Madurski
 John P. Matta
 Joseph B. Moorhead
 Michael Mosko
 Dennis Nieder
 Harry R. Parker
 Daniel L. Pasquerette
 Ronald J. Quest
 Jack S. Risjan
 William Robinson
 Raymond Rosario
 Jeffrey L. Roth
 William P. Shaffer
 David A. Tutmaher
 John Walczak
 Roy A. Welser
 Russell F. Curtis
 Dale L. Durst
 David E. Frantz
 Tom Howe
 James D. Kerr
 George Montero
 Geoffry P. Pancerev
 Phillip E. Rekitt
 Kermit R. Skeel
 John F. Zwick
 Charles L. Worst
 Clark A. Bullers
 Larry I. Gates
 Cass A. Johnson
 David A. Jordan
 Michael R. King
 Clarke E. Leasure
 John L. Leri
 John P. Matta
 Charles T. McGill
 Dale J. Snyder
 William D. Adam
 Raymond A. Dinello
 David Robertshaw
 Jack Stephenson
 Michael Twohig
 Vincent J. Vargo
 Israel Velez

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 2-1, Bay A-Column 8, Mezzanine
 When: Thursdays 1st Shift 11:30 am
 2nd Shift 7:30 pm
 3rd Shift 3:00 am

JUNE 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 L.A.C. MEETING	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 R.A.G.E. MEETING	10	11	12
13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19
20 Father's Day 	21 First Day of Summer	22 E-BOARD MEETING	23	24 MEMBER- SHIP MEETINGS	25 RAGE BOARD MEETING	26
27	28	29	30			