



# LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 61, Issue 6

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Friday, August 13, 2010

## Getting Prepared

*Business Agent Wayne Burnett*

As you may have read in President Pifer's article last month concerning the Insurance Plan that the company has already implemented on the management side, this is no joke.

This is one of the most serious and (costly) issues that we will face in the 2011 contract. If we are not focused and come together as one, we could surely be in the fight of our lives.

At times we put our attention on things or circumstances that really aren't critical instead of focusing on the issues that can bring us down. I'm telling you Brothers and Sisters, there are always going to be problems and situations we will face daily in a shop floor environment, but we can't afford to fall into these traps that are setup and designed to divide this membership.

Unfortunately, things don't always happen as quickly or in the timely manner that we think they should, but in today's world, what does? As you look around this country, you can see the decrease in labor and the many union shops that have been closed, consolidated, or moved to other countries by these giant corporations.

Many of these shops were once UE shops with family sustaining wages that you could raise a family with. Now you see workers all over the country taking on jobs that pay half or sometimes a third of the wages that they previously made or have no job at all.

Brothers and Sisters, now is the time for us to reconcile any issues that may hinder us in the future, for our challenges should not be among ourselves, but focused on the things that are headed our way.



## News N Views

*By President Jim Pifer*

The awarding of TAA benefits by the DOL was welcome news to many of our laid-off brothers and sisters while awaiting recall. The rapid response team from career links has set up several meetings at the Union hall to answer any questions you may have.

The career links office should be mailing out info on all the dates and times, you will then need to call and make an appointment.

Remember all questions should be directed towards them. The phone # is 814-455-9966, listen to the options than press the appropriate extension.

**Keep in mind times may change after I write this article, so make sure you call the above number as soon as you receive your mailing.**

The following dates and times are as follows, Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am - 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm. Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am - 11:00 am - 1:30 pm.

I suggest that you call soon as possible after you receive your letter, before the time that is most convenient for you is filled up.

If you do not receive a letter please notify us at the hall, so we can assist in scheduling you a time.

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## August Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- General Business Matters
- Committee Updates

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND TIMES ARE:**

Thursday, August 19, 2010 (All meetings)  
7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)  
1:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)  
3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

There will be another recall of 96 laid-off workers to temporary jobs.

First off let me say that the recall of 96 people on top of the more than 200 that have already been recalled is a good thing.

We must all remember that when our brothers and sisters get recalled, they are resetting much needed benefits not to mention a decent paycheck.

We believe the company is making a mistake the way these people are being placed on these temporary jobs, but our focus is to get these people in the door and then sort thru the mess.

Lastly in my article is shutdown. As every one knows shutdown was scheduled for fiscal week 40, September 27<sup>th</sup> thru October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Due to a short cycle in some orders the company now needs everyone to work week 40. Even though we would have a valid argument to demand everyone be off that week, we believe we have reached a reasonable compromise.

If you have plans for week 40 you will still be entitled to take those 5 days off, if not you will have off week 48, which is Thanksgiving week saving 2 days of vacation because of the two holidays. Also any one who wants vacation the first day of buck season, will get it as long as they let there B.L. know at least two weeks in advance.

Finally anyone who takes vacation during week 40 will have the option of working week 48 or taking the time as extra vacation or TLOW.

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## Members Approve Dues Increase

During the July membership meetings the members approved a dues increase of (.70) cents, bringing the weekly dues to \$11.00. This increase was a combination of two factors, with the first being in accordance with our constitution, which allows for an increase with any wage or cost of living adjustment.

The second is because our (your) Union suffered greatly in terms of lost revenue as a result of the many retirements and lay-offs, which occurred in 2009. This increase will help this organization continue to function both business-wise and to represent our members.

## Chief Plant Steward's Report

*By Mike Hayes*

We had our step II on July 29<sup>th</sup> and a total of 49 cases were heard. Some of the cases concerned discipline, farmouts, payments, overtime and some lean issues. Twenty-three cases were closed, ten were put on hold and 16 are going to step III.

August 10<sup>th</sup> was our step III meeting in Cleveland where eleven cases were heard.

This last round of recalls sure has generated a lot of phone calls. At this point we'll have to get through them the best we can.

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## Building 10 Divisional Chief Steward's Report

*By: John Caputo*

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members in Bldg 10, 26 and Paint Shop for allowing me to represent them for two more years. I would also like to welcome the RAD CAB line and soon the Main Cab line to the family. I have no doubt that we will have great success and impact working together as a team in Bldg 10. Since taking over as Chief Steward in 2008, I feel that we have seen it all. From the overtime we worked, to the overtime that was not enough, to bringing everyone under the sun in during Egypt, to the layoffs we suffered and the SERO process we all endured.

Through all this, I am also still bothered by the move of Station 1 from Bldg 10 to Bldg 5. For those not familiar with the operation, it is the bottom side assembly of the locomotive deck, basically the first process of assembling the locomotive. Bldg 10 has had record years, over 900 locomotives in 1999 and that was without working 7 consecutive days, consistently. In 2008 there were 800 locomotives assembled, with record weeks of 30 plus. These are just two examples of the many historic achievements that have come out of Bldg 10. In 2009, Station 1 was relocated to Bldg 5 and RAD CAB was moved to Bldg 10, Station 2. Made in 2004 for Bldg 12-RAD

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# Reporting from Building 18E/63/60/24B

*By: Divisional Chief Steward Ron Dombrowiak*

The Garage, known as 24B is a 24/7 operation. The company has been discussing "going Lean" in the Garage. We did "go Lean" and lost six drivers to lay-offs and retirements. Finally management has decided to listen and hire four more drivers. Also they are going to buy new, much needed equipment.

In 18 Truck, the Company cut too deep in lay-offs, and cut third shift. The Company found this was a mistake and is now hiring back a temporary third shift of 15 people. The Lean project did not go as planned. The result was an unhappy workforce, and the Company still does not get it. The Company continues to use a "band-aid" approach to old equipment, instead of buying new.

The FMI group, located in 18 Truck, is still very busy and hopes to replace the retirements and is a very skilled workforce.

In 18 Engine lab, the company realized there were many projects and test to do. Some employees are being called back, and the employee's bidding on these jobs have to take a test (a rocket scientist would have a hard time passing the test), which the Union is grieving right now.

Building #60 is the last building the locomotive goes through prior to being shipped. The same scenario happening in 18 Engine is happening in Building#60. The Company should go back to training people.

Building #63 consists of UX, 63Kitting, Warehouse and Export Kitting. The warehouse went Lean in 2006, and the warehouse was changed to an export kitting area. The Business Leader told the union workers that when the Lean project was completed, all workers would be 17 codes. The Union Stewards and workers were told at least three times in meetings, that they would all be 17 codes. We were only given 16 codes.

Management cannot understand why people are unhappy. Management is adding three temporary jobs to this area because of the excessive overtime.

In Building #63 Kitting, management has hired back nine people. The third shift is still cut. The

management still cannot figure out how to run this area, and will not take the advice of the Union. Management continues to put production before safety, when we thought safety was first!

Building #63 UX, a division of propulsion, does total rebuild of traction motors for existing customers as well as warranty work. Some are being hired back, the Company continues to do Lean projects in this area.

A new Business Leader showed up this year, who does not believe in listening to our ideas and thinks he is still in the Navy. We are hoping this business keeps strong so more people can be called back.

The Contract is coming up next June, so please attend the monthly meetings, for we need to keep strong and work together. I would like to thank all the Stewards and Union Brothers and Sisters for the support and ideas given daily. There are problems in this division and I'll do my best to resolve them. Thank you for the continued support.

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CAB was an extremely efficient, multi-million dollar investment lean-line, now currently left abandoned.

And there is more to come, like the plan for Main Cab slated for the end of 2010, I ask why?? Why do we need to fix something that is not broken? Why would we lessen our ability to future record breaking years? Why is management truly not "on-board", and afraid to speak up and express their doubts about potential failure as volume increases? I can only speculate and theorize that it is their way of trying to break up Bldg 10. Former GE Management felt that Station 1 was the reason for their production woes; they felt that cutting the "head off the snake" (their words) would be the solution. Instead of managing their area effectively, they moved it. What was really messed up was that if you didn't like it, there was no discussion, you faced the repercussions.

So now, with the innovators of the move gone to sunnier pastures, I hope that the newer leadership looks at this move more critically. I hope they see that it is not a viable solution to the problems that exist and stop the madness. I was recently asked by a member of management why I care? I care because I want the business to succeed financially, and as a great innovator. I want our current and future members to retire from GE. I want us in Erie to continue to be the greatest locomotive builders in the world.

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# 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. 10-26 875-6054 (shop-days)
- Rich Laskowski 875-2348
- UE LOCAL 506 HALL 899-3108

## RECENT RETIREES



- Raymond G. Kern
- John Berarducci
- Robert M. Mazur
- David T. Trayer
- Teresa M. Fusco
- Charles W. Ruff
- Anthony R. Vacanti

- Mark V. Palmer
- Michael J. Brown
- David Olson
- William Huff (Deceased)
- Michael J. Miaczynski
- Bruce A. Tousey
- Richard Yeaney

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Shift 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift

## SEPTEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 L.A.C. MEETING	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day	7	8 R.A.G.E. MEMBERSHIP MEETING	9	10	11
12	13	14 E-BOARD MEETING	15	16 506 MEMBER- SHIP MEETINGS	17	18
19	20	21	22 First Day of Autumn	23	24 R.A.G.E. BOARD MEETING	25
26	27	28	29	30		

