



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 61, Issue 7

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Friday, September 10, 2010

Your Safety Coordinators Safety Monitor Program

By being a Safety Monitor you have a very significant role in helping to reduce accidents and potential injuries among your fellow workers and friends. The Safety Monitor acts as an extra set of eyes and ears for the Safety Coordinator and supports the plant and building safety program. It is important that an individual who is a Safety Monitor be aware of the scope of the assignment.

The responsibilities of a Safety Monitor include the following:

- Acting as a good example to others, thoughtfully using the responsibilities that are given to this position.
- Conducting periodic safety audits, either at specific processes, or throughout his or her assigned area.
- Conducting regulated inspections of equipment. Examples include fire extinguishers, eye wash stations, emergency showers and chemical labeling.
- Fully and fairly documenting each audit finding, communicating findings, and assisting in monitoring the prompt resolution of unsafe conditions.
- Advising fellow workers of unsafe acts and making a good faith effort to initiate a safe alternative.
- Attending Safety Monitor meetings and / or training when they are scheduled.

Thank you to all who are currently Safety Monitors or who have been Safety Monitors in the past.

If you are interested in becoming a Safety Monitor contact your Safety Coordinator or EHS TA.

RECENT RETIREES



James R. Wagoner Richard A. Kaiser
Keith Miller

UE Takes DC (Washington) By Storm

By Business Agent Wayne Burnett

On September 19th, Local 506 members will join other UE members from across the country for three days of political education and action in our nations capital.

Although we usually find that our politicians' actions don't always match their promises, we must continue to seek out those who come close to the concerns of working class people.

We all know that it's getting close to election time and even those who wouldn't give us the time of day may act like they are concerned. I know that we are smarter than they think we are and we won't be fooled by this tactic, because we face it everyday.

Chris Townsend, our political action director in Washington does a fantastic job of setting up meetings with those (Politicians) who will meet with UE and also chasing down those who (not up for re-election) will run like the devil trying to avoid us.

We should all have some kind of idea of who our political leaders are and what they stand for. If they do not have our best interest (working class) in mind, then we need to find and support those that do.

September Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- General Business Matters
- Committee Updates

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND TIMES ARE:

Thursday, September 16, 2010 (All meetings)
7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)
1:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)
3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

Report From Building 2

By: Chief Steward Leo Grzegorzewski

Welcome back recently recalled U.E. 506 members!! It is great to have you back where you belong; we realize we still have a long way to go in getting all our laid-off members back into permanent positions. It will be a struggle, but we all have to work together in identifying those areas where we are short on manpower and fight to get our laid-off members back into those needed positions. The number one goal is to get all jobs made permanent period! **This is what we are all about, U.E. 506 is a proud union with a strong membership committed to protecting our retiree's, present day workers, laid-off workers and future U.E. 506, members rights.** We must all pull together now more than ever, for the future promises to be a challenge, it will test our fortitude, our endurance and our will. This is not the first time this union has had to face the tough road ahead and it will not be the last, however it is our time to uphold what was fought so far. I believe we are up to the challenge and like our predecessors we will win the fight.

Building 2 is no different than any other building at the Erie plant, we face farm out issues, lack of parts, machine breakdowns and needed positions filled. Although these issues are frustrating and sometimes seem simple to fix, *they are not*. The issue of farm out is more daunting than ever before, the present day hierarchy continues to farm out parts for no apparent good reason. We continue to argue capacity with the company with some success but it always seems they are on a different page than the one we are on. **If we cannot meet demand and we have open machines the formula is simple. HIRE MORE PEOPLE.** This fight is one of the biggest and toughest we are dealing with, and it is not going away anytime in the foreseeable future. We will keep on fighting until all farm out is returned back here where it belongs.

Safety is not taken lightly in our bldg. Our safety coordinator along with our safety monitors do an outstanding job in building 2 These people are here to make sure our jobs, equipment and procedures are safe for everyone. If you have any safety concerns please get in touch with your safety coordinator or monitor in your building to address the situation before someone gets hurt, that's what their here for.

Safety is an issue that affects all of us, be it at home or in the work place, we as a union need to help each other on this topic. Make sure if you are starting a new job or have been moved that **you receive all the training you need** before you are left on your own.

In Solidarity,
Leo Grzegorzewski

Building #6 Update

By: Chief Steward Patte Dillen

Welcome back to all our UE 506 Brothers & Sisters! Even though most of these positions are temporary right now, we are hoping they will turn into permanent jobs. We are starting to see employee's getting recalled to their higher coded day-work crossover codes. This is done by service, to the first available crossover job, plant wide.

We are still working to get people paid properly who were not recalled by service, to the higher coded temporary jobs.

Farm-outs are still a major issue especially in our AC lean area. This area has been mis-managed for years. I wonder when the company will realize that putting on a 3rd shift will increase the flow in this area.

The company could bring back out farm-outs, saving thousands of dollars, plus the extra man-hours spent on re-work.

We are still hoping to get more of our laid off Brothers & Sisters back to work. I hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day Holiday Weekend with their families. We earned it.

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)
490-4433 (cell)
Don Brown, Bldg. 63
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

News N Views

By President Jim Pifer

It has been reported to us that UE members on permanent LOW have been asked to go to other countries to teach others how to build locomotives in other factories. Currently we have policies in effect prohibiting such actions.

We find it very difficult to believe that any one associated with GE would be callous enough to do the despicable and cowardly act of calling up current or laid-off members and ask them to go to other countries without notifying this Union.

Hopefully, if any of this is true, the powers that be at GE will put an immediate stop to this nonsense.

Remember whether you are a current working or laid-off member and you cross that line we will file charges.

The person that asked you to go will soon be forgotten, your name never will. Once you do it you can never go back and undo it. We will be unforgiving regardless of how much service you have or the circumstance of why you did it.

Imagine, everywhere you go for the rest of your career at GE, you will be known as the person who showed others how to do our work, thus preventing others from being hired or called back.

I want to make sure I stress this enough, **don't be the one.**

In other news, we received notice from the company last week of their intent to recall 182 more laid-off members in the locomotive division.

Everyone that has recall to a class 1 job will be given the opportunity to go back by order of seniority.

We do not view this as one set of workers being more important than others; it's simply a matter of putting people where they belong, working down the chain, and when these jobs become permanent, most people will be in their proper place.

That's close to 300 recalls in the last month. That's a lot of movement for a lot of people in a short amount of time. We will continue meeting with the company until everyone is in their correct class and code.

Lastly, I would like to say we are finally starting to get some good news, let's treat it as such. There was a lot of effort and work from a lot of different people to get these people recalled. Things could have turned out a lot different.

I have always had a great deal of respect for people who stand up and defend what they believe in. As far as recalls, by the time it's done, everyone will be at the correct class and code, and anyone who was initially bypassed and who is owed lost wages will be paid.

Most importantly are the issues that may come up with little or no notice. We must be willing and able to act swiftly, decisively, and as one, or we all stand to lose a great deal.

Chief Plant Steward Report

By: Mike Hayes

Our Step II grievance meeting was August 26th, thirty-six cases were heard. Some were farm-out, lean issues, payment, circumventing the recall procedure, training issues, discipline. We ended up with 21 closed cases, 8 holds and 7 went to Step III. The next Step II will be September 23rd at 9:00 am. More cases have been submitted to Step III. We will find out shortly when that will be.

We are going through another round of recall of a 182 employee's from the street. The updated information I get over at the Hall is Code and Last called seniority date. If there is a payment, you may have coming, See your steward or Chief. You can also call me at the hall.

We do not agree with the way the company is recalling these people back, but I am glad they are. The company's reason is that they are pressed for time, and will place everyone in the correct job as soon as possible. According to them, by the end of October, they will have a better idea on what the forecast for the future work at the plant is.

Shaping Up

Did you realize that the GE Health & Wellness Center is Free if you attend 30 times a quarter? This offer is extended to all GE Transportation employees and their spouses (both active & retired). Less than the required attendance will be (\$15.00/month) or \$45.00 per quarter. Check with the Health and Wellness Center for more info.

Sports Shorts

The VAVS Golf Tournament was a huge success again this year, bringing in over \$4,000.00, benefiting the VA Medical center Patient Fund.

The winners are **Tim Boetger** (32" flat screen TV), **Jeff Starr** (50/50), and the winning team was **Todd Mosier, Bill Fuhrman, J. Mosier and J. Giknis**, who finished at 10 under par (61). The sports committee wants to thank all (active and retired members) for their involvement.

Staying Focused

By Business Agent Wayne Burnett

Here we are my Brothers and Sisters, winding down what was probably the best summer that Erie has had in many years. I hope you enjoyed it. But just as quickly as this summer has passed and we head into the fall and winter seasons, it won't be long before this union will be headed toward another season (Contract Season).

This is certainly a season that could be hotter than the summer we just had. Our National officers seem to feel that this upcoming contract will be tough. Some of you will remember the two-day National strike in January of 2003 concerning the increase in higher co-pays for our medical plan.

At that time, GE was on the verge of announcing record earnings of over \$15 billion the previous year and predicting double-digit profits increases for 2003. This was a mid-contract attack and the company has given notice that medical insurance is one of their top priorities and indicated that they are coming after it. This is one of those rare occasions that you can believe them and if you don't, just ask your bosses.

So you see Brothers and Sisters, we need to stay focused and get on the same page and realize that we will need to be as one if and when this battle comes our way.

And just a side note to that National strike in 2003. We also mourned the loss of **Kjeston Michelle Rogers**, who was struck and tragically killed while on picket duty in Louisville, Kentucky. She was a single mother of three teenage daughters. What a price to pay!

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

OCTOBER 2010

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