



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 62, Issue 10

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Friday, October 14, 2011

Eastern Regional Delegates Nominations

Nominations for the 2012 Eastern Region will take place at the October membership meetings. By Constitution, the three officers serve as delegates and an additional seven members have the opportunity to represent the members.

The four receiving the most votes will serve as your elected delegates and the remaining three will serve as alternates. The voting will take place at the November membership meetings.

In case of a tie, a run-off election will be held at the December membership meetings. All members are welcome to run for this position.

Stewards/Alternate Elections To Be Held In November

Stewards elections for 2011-2013 term will be held during the first two full weeks of November. The divisions Election Committee Representative will post notices in prominent locations within the department.

The name (S) of the candidate, the date, and time as well as the designated voting area will be also posted.

Eligible candidates must have been in good standing for at least six (6) months. In case of a tie, a runoff election will be held within ten days.

Winners will be installed at the November membership meetings. Remember, the steward system is the first line of defense when problems arise. It is very important that you gather all the facts (keep records) when confronted with any situation.

Constitutional Amendments Proposed

There were three constitutional amendments turned in at the September membership meetings. One pertains to the notification and nominations of the **General Elections** and the second involves the date and how that information is distributed to the members.

The other proposal involves some language concerning the **Strike Defense Fund**. These proposals will be discussed with the Executive Board and brought to the membership with any recommendations that are made. As always, the members have the final say.

2012 Holiday Schedule

The 2012 holiday schedule is yet to be discussed with the E-Board or the membership. There may be some inaccurate info floating around the shop floor. This month's membership meetings should clear this matter up.

October Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- General Business
- Committee Updates
- Nominations for Eastern Region Delegates

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, October 20, 2011 (All meetings)
7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)
1:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)
3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

Chief Plant Steward's Report

By Mike Hayes

On September 30th we had our Step II Grievance Meeting. Thirty-six cases were heard. Some were payment, farm-out, medical center denial over B-9 restrictions, discipline, harassment by management and exempts doing bargaining unit work. Only 13 cases were resolved, 16 were put on hold and 7 went to Step III.



Discipline has been an issue in the plant for the new hires with less than six months of service. We have been talking to the company for the past few weeks on these discipline issues and strongly disagree with the severity of the discipline being issued. We feel if an employee misses 8 hours or has 2 tardies, that doesn't mean a pattern has been set as to what kind of employee he or she will be. We will not tolerate this unjust treatment of our new employees as well as the older ones.

Our next Step II will be October 28th and our next Step III date has not been determined. On a side note, keep your eyes on Job Postings because there should be plenty of jobs coming up for bid. Good Luck.



President's Report

By Roger Zaczyk

GOOD NEWS...GE is still bringing in New Hires. Over 90 new hourlyies have been hired since our last membership meeting...that's the good news. Good paying, family sustaining, Union jobs.



From what your officers have been told, the plan for Erie is to hire 120 more before years end....more good news.

There has been much dialogue on the JOB POSTING issue. Some jobs being posted, some jobs not. Some of the high code jobs are being filled by new hires. The UR staff, here in Erie, maintains that the posting of these jobs has been exhausted internally. Our concern is the practice in place for jobs being OPENED for bid and the time that job gets posted for internal bid. There is language in our Local understanding on job posting and upgrading procedure, dated July 9, 2010, that states: "The Company will, to the extent practical, give first consideration for job openings and upgrading to present employees, when employees with the necessary qualifications are available."

With that being said, we have been told that over 3,000 moves have taken place this year alone here in Erie....Because of the VOLUME DRIVEN work generated at this time, and the customer commitments needed for future growth. This is a GOOD problem to have.

Pictured below, the new National President, Bruce Klipple



Election Committee Reps Needed

Due to the fact that **Don Brown** has taken a new job, there is now a need to replace him. Don previously worked in building 63 and served as the Chairman of the Election Committee.

Also, building 18 truck is in need of an election committee rep. Any one interested in serving as a member of the election committee from these two divisions can place their name or the name of another qualified candidate starting October 17th through October 19th during normal business hours at the union hall. Questionnaire forms must be turned in by the Friday the 21st.

L.A.C. Report

By Chairman Mike Ferrito

We've all heard and seen what's been happening in the political world as our elected politicians continue to try and strip the bargaining rights from the working class people.

This is happening all over America and if we do not keep a close eye on what's happening, we could find ourselves in the fight of our lives to keep from becoming a right-to-work state.

As the middle class continues to dwindle downward, our bargaining power also continues to spiral downward because our unionized workforce continues to decline.

We can't afford to lose this battle. Over the past three and one half years, GE alone has closed 31 plants. That's about four thousand jobs lost.

These companies continue to do business in other countries for profit, but demand concessions from the American workforce while they pay no (or very little) taxes.

We have to start ridding ourselves of the politicians who say they are for the working class, but fall in line with the status quo (big business) once they get elected. Make no bones about it, they are in every political party.

As the saying goes; "Wall Street Got Bailed Out And The American Worker Got Sold Out". If we are ever to live the "American Dream", then we better start electing people who have our best interest in mind.

National President John Hovis Retires

Over the many decades, **President Hovis** has stated that his strong commitment to maintaining UE is rooted in his knowledge of UE history.

He was taught by many of the old timers who built this union and kept it alive during the red-scare attacks of the 1950s. "Other people lived and died to build this organization, who the hell are we to give up because we face a few challenges?"

President Hovis was presented many gifts of appreciation at the 72nd National convention, but he added "you have given me much more.... I leave knowing the union is in good hands."

Good Luck John, enjoy many years of your retirement.

Pictured below: Frank Barnes and John Hovis



Healthcare Information

The main website for healthcare information is www.ge.com/HealthAhead. Click on the orange button on the top, which says Health Care Decision, and go under the GE Health Benefits Section.

The company provided this info and we are passing it on to our members. The company will also be giving in-shop seminars on the healthcare plans. Any questions pertaining to these seminars should be directed to your PTA or BL.

New Officers Elected During Convention

The election of the top three National Offices were held during the 72nd National Convention. **Bruce Klipple**, UE Secretary Treasurer for the last ten years, was elected as General President replacing **John Hovis**.

Bruce has been a member of UE for 32 years. He was a member of Local 141 at PA Pump and Compressor in Easton, PA and moved through the ranks serving as steward, trustee, and then local president.

Bruce was a field organizer for fifteen years and then worked as an International Representative of District One for eleven years. He has been engaged in a wide variety of organizing campaigns, contract negotiations, and assisting UE locals where needed.

He has participated in the last two sets of UE-GE National Contract negotiations and is very knowledgeable as to what it takes to continue to move this Union forward. As we welcome Bruce to his new

position, let's remember that his success is our success.

Also, **Andrew Dinkelaker**, the Eastern Region President was elected to replace Bruce as the UE Secretary Treasurer. After being hired in 1994 as a counselor for adults with mental disabilities in Middlebury, VT, he immediately became active in organizing his shop.

He represented his department in their first contract negotiations and then served as the local's recording secretary.

From 1997 to 2005, Andrew was a UE field organizer, servicing and organizing all over the country. His youthfulness is an added dimension that can benefit our national union for years to come.

Bob Kingsley was re-elected as the director of organization, which is a testament to the job he has done. Good luck to all of you and we know you will serve all our locals well.



Pictured above, left to right: Rick Steele, Dave Chadwell, Leo Grzegorzewski, Mike Ferrito, Don Brown, Matt McCracken, Tim Newara, Roger Zaczyk, Doug Mathis, Brian Welsh, Tom Skwaryk, Jason Trayer, Doug Wolf and Wayne Burnett.

Who Are We?

By B.A. Wayne Burnett

During the recent 72nd UE National Convention, there wasn't a day that those in attendance didn't say or hear the chat, "Who are We"?

As I sat back and began to ponder this question, I begin to reminisce on some of the reasons why unions were formed in the first place. This question lead me back to the Constitution of the United States of America where it talks about justice, tranquility, defence, liberty, posterity and the welfare of the people.

This sounds good, but are we (the country) truly following or living that constitution. Well let's look at some of the reasons why unions were formed. Where is the tranquility (calmness) in the workplace when the bosses continually use tactics to try to divide the workers?

Where is the justice when people are not being treated the same? Why is it that we have such a hard time defending ourselves, or our freedom to form a more perfect union? It's no surprise that the world is in the shape it is.

Our elected officials have sided with the giant corporations who ships good paying jobs out of the country to pad their bottom line. These same corporations who say they have compassion for workers all over the world, but yet pay them slave wages, takes advantage of lax environmental laws, and in some places use child labor.

How sad is it when the richest country in the world has poverty, millions without healthcare, jobs, homelessness, or lack of an educational system that can't compete with other nations? If you want to know who we are, then read the preamble on page one in the "Constitution and By-Laws of Local 506". If you agree with what you read, we will become a better workforce.

In Sympathy

The Officers and Executive Board of UE Local 506 wish to extend their sincere condolences to the families and friends of Tim Kujan who passed away. Tim worked in building 26 test.

Convention Brief

By Dave Chadwell

I went to the UE convention this year for my first time, and it was an excellent experience. The welcome was warm, the people were great, and there were many things for me to learn. We marched through downtown Pittsburgh to Verizon, AT&T, and finally the Post Office, continuing a fight that we have been fighting for many years, and that is the attacks on the working class people of this great country. Corporate America's attacks on the working class are worse than ever before from the CEO's to their hired Hench men, oh I mean Politicians. A few weeks ago the house passed (HR2587) this bill amends the National Labor relations Act to make it easier for companies to move their facilities to Right-To-Works states or overseas. I brought this to the attention of the delegates of the convention so they could take it home and spread the word WE DO NOT NEED THIS. Brothers and sisters this is the kind of thing we need to Stand Up and Fight against. I urge you all to call your congress man and Senator's and voice your opinion. Thank You.



Pictured above, Steve Tormey and Gene Elk at the Conference Board Meeting.

Mark Your Calendar

Election Day, November 8, 2011

**Veterans' Day,
November 11, 2011**

**Thanksgiving,
November 24, 2011**



2011 UE LOCAL 506 TOY DRIVE

Brothers & Sisters,

It is once again the time where we ask you to step up and help our local children. The past toy drives have been very successful, but sadly this year's needs are greater than ever.

By bringing toys and monetary contributions to your Union Steward, Chief Steward or even the Union Hall, we will touch many lives.

These gifts will be distributed through four agencies: Erie Home for Children & Adults, Erie Family Center, The Booker T. Washington Center and the Union City Family Support Center.

These gifts will brighten the lives of many children on Christmas day. They will be able to enjoy the holiday season as each of us does with our own loved ones.

So we ask, please give so that we can bring smiles to the faces of hundreds of Erie County children this holiday season.

Thank you in advance,
Kevin Ireson, Chairman
UE Local 506 Toy Drive

Retirement Seminars

The retirement seminars scheduled for Saturday, October 29th and November 5th seem to be filled and we are waiting to hear from the company if corporate is willing to schedule an additional seminar.

Remember to bring the documents that were requested in the registration form. A Corporate Benefits Specialist will conduct these seminars.

RECENT LOCAL 506 RETIREES



- Richard Carullo
- James E. Goard
- Robert W. Hawryliw
- Martin E. Sorensen
- Leroy G Bisbee
- Leo J. Dudenhoeffer, III

Unity Council Help

With so much movement going on in the plant, if you feel the need for intervention concerning a workplace problem or a situation that could lead to a problem, please call the union hall.

We will contact someone from the Unity Committee to address your concerns. Remember: turning to each other instead of on each other is the way to go. That's unionism!

Change of Address Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Local _____

Return Form To: The Union Hall
3923 Main Street • Erie, PA 16511

NOVEMBER 2011

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