



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 62, Issue 9

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Tuesday, September 13, 2011

NOTICE: PLANT WIDE SAFETY COORDINATORS ELECTION Tuesday, October 4th, 2011

Safety Coordinators Concerns

Over the past two years, the safety coordinators have expressed some concerns that they feel have fallen on deaf ears on the management side. The most important of these concerns is proper training. It is vital because it is tied to safety and we all know that a safe working environment benefits everyone.

Because of an upswing in the business, it seems that production requirements and customer commitments have superseded the training aspects in some areas.

While we want GE to be and remain the successful company it has always been, we urge them to follow their own example of putting safety first.

Secondly, there's the question of proper tooling and equipment to perform these jobs. Some complaints are simply not being able to get the most basic equipment (weld jackets and hoods, gloves, safety glasses, ty-wrap guns, cutters and proper testing equipment).

And then there is the question of tool crib coverage, which has improved, but can always get better since more shifts are being added. It is management's responsibility to make sure these issues get addressed and more importantly realize that the safety coordinators are not production supervisors.

Question! Can't Stand the Answer; Don't Ask

By Business Agent Wayne Burnett

Recently, in a meeting with the CEO of Transportation, an employee expressed some feelings and thoughts about on going issues in the plant. It has now become very apparent that some management in the area where this employee works did not appreciate those comments.

Obliviously, the old saying, "Honesty is the best Policy" only works when it doesn't hurt someone's feelings or places them under a spotlight. Hopefully, neither this employee nor any other employee will ever be ridiculed for openly expressing their opinion when asked.

September Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- General Business
- Committee Updates

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Sunday, September 18, 2011
5:00 P.M.

Chief Plant Steward's Report

By Mike Hayes

On August 26th we had our Step II grievance meeting. The cases that were heard were regarding recall format, job posting, working out of class and code, short weeking workers, medical center issues, B9's, discipline and overtime. We ended up with 10 Holds, 3 Letters and 26 Closed Cases.



We had our Step III grievance meeting in Erie on September 8th. The cases heard were farm-out, discipline, a disagreement with the company adding duties to assembly jobs and back pay issues that were never settled locally that was applied to the agenda. I have not at this time received a date for our next Step II grievance meeting. Hopefully I will have it for the Sunday, September 18th membership meeting. Hope to see you there.

President's Report

By Roger Zaczyk

As of this writing, an additional 58 UE members have been added to the rosters since last month's membership meeting. That is good, and WELCOME to UE Local 506.



The 72nd UE National Convention will happen this month, and all those delegates this Local is sending are getting their workshop assignments. **Rick Steele** was the winner of the run-off election held last month, and I believe that those going will represent UE 506 well.

The officers have been notified that the ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN tobacco policy that has been thrown out there is ON again. NOVEMBER 1ST 2011 this GE facility will be tobacco free. There are many programs out there for tobacco addiction and hopefully those options will be utilized by the membership.

Classes will soon be conducted for the contractually negotiated executive board members who will hopefully understand the Health Choice insurance plan that will go into effect in 2012. There will be without a doubt many questions and concerns.

For as long as I can remember, there has always been the "CRUNCH" time at the end of the respective quarters i.e. customer commitment. Again this locomotive assembly plant is going thru the "HAMMER" them out mode. It was said many times over the many obstacles, GE, "GIVE US THE TOOLS, GIVE US THE PARTS AND GET OUT OF OUR WAY". With all the movement in the plant, and with the dedicated workforce, I believe the Challenge will be met.

RANK-AND-FILE DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

The 72nd National UE Convention

September 25-29, 2011

Wyndham Grand Hotel Pittsburgh

The biennial UE Convention is rank-and-file democracy in action. Delegates representing UE regions and local unions from around the country set UE policy, elect the union's national officers and learn about our union's progress since the last convention. It's UE's most educational and inspirational event.

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.

L.A.C. Report

By Mike Ferrito

Once again we are at the mercy of our legislators. If the Highway Funding Bill does not pass by September 30th, legislators will give new meaning to "My way or the highway". This Bill will distribute billions of dollars to states for road building, repairs and mass transit.

Blockage of the Bill will immediately furlough 4,000 federal workers. It will cost 1 billion dollars in lost gasoline tax, and could put 1million workers at risk over the next year.

The LAC is urging all members to take action and contact your legislator to support the passage of the Highway Funding Bill.

Legislators Contact Info

Congressman	454-8191
Mike Kelly	(202) 225-5406
Congressman	827-3985
Glenn Thompson	(202) 225-5121
Senator	874-5080
Bob Casey	(202) 224-6324
Senator	453-3010
Pat Toomey	(202) 224-4254

Municipal elections will be held on Nov.8, 2011. Voters must register by October 11th, 2011. If you are not registered to vote please do so online @ registertovote.org

Benefit Help (Healthcare)

by WB

During the recent national negotiations, it was agreed that the company would pay eight (8) hours a week to a union employee to help answer questions concerning the new healthcare plan.

Although that person has yet to be identified, we would expect that individual to educate as many of our brothers and sisters as possible to understand this plan.

It is very important that any knowledge that would benefit this membership in any way (regardless of the subject) should be shared with everyone. We realize that there will be a learning curve, but eventually we know that everything will straighten out.

Golf Tournament a Success

The 4th Annual UE/VAS Welcome Home "Fore" Veterans Golf Tournament was a huge success. Over \$6,300.00 was raised for the homeless veterans fund. Congratulations goes out to **Harry McIntosh, Ron Eisert, Bob Ekendorf** and **Kirk King** for being the best of the rest.

We would also like to recognize **Jim Houghton, Frank Barnes, Gary Snyder** and **Carl Daugherty** for obtaining the weed whacker award.

If you are not sure what that award is, ask one of the foursome. Thanks to all for making this event a success.



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!

RECENT LOCAL 506 RETIREES



- Michael K. Abt
- Ray Golembeski
- Joseph M. Kloss
- Victoria E. Marzka
- James P. Schroeck
- Evelyn M. Carr
- Timothy E. Benim
- Thomas S. Matlock

- Richard W. Breiding
- Edward Iszkula
- George Kubeja
- Patrick J. Santone
- Louis M. Zawadski
- Thomas L. Foster
- Janet A. Dougan

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Steve Hyzer

During the 71st National Convention, General Secretary-Treasurer **Bruce Klipple** laid out a proposal on the finances of our National Union for 2009 through 2013. This replaced the five-year plan established in 2004.



The plan that was developed in 2009 increased per-capita over the 2009-2013 time frame. The increases were based on the average pay of a Local Union's members. Under the proposal our Union (Local 506) paid \$27 (Up from \$25) per month per employee to the National Union effective 12/01/09 and increased \$2 every year thereafter for the entirety of the plan. Effective 12/01/11, this will become \$31 per month.

There was much debate concerning the proposal at that time, mainly because our unions were being decimated across the entire country at that time, as it still continues to this day. Yet, the delegates from all over the country understood it was essential in order to sustain the viability of our National Union.

Now, in order for us to continue to be fiscally responsible, we will in turn be required to increase our dues. The fact that we have started to significantly build our membership has helped our position. That being said, it doesn't offset the prior years where we chose not to increase our dues per Constitution. Basically, because of our finances at that time, our leadership decided it was unnecessary to impose a dues increase to the membership; we were already adequately funded. That time has long passed and we are now going to have to step up to the plate, and do what is necessary to move this Union forward. After the financial officers closely analyze the situation, a recommendation will be given to the Executive Board and then presented to the membership.

Another factor that would help us in regards to minimizing increases to our dues is an amendment to our constitution. In my opinion, an amendment to our Local Constitution could ultimately help us in the future and could have aided us in the past. Unions across this country have been under attack both in the public and private sector. Our

National recommends, as do I, that our present **STRIKE DEFENSE FUND** become a **STRIKE AND DEFENSE FUND**.

Right now, the purpose of the **STRIKE DEFENSE FUND** is very specific. It is used to operate the Union and maintain the survival of our membership during the hardship of a prolonged strike. It is also used to reimburse our general fund when we pay out strike defense fund refunds. They are paid to members in good standing at the time of their retirement. Refunds are calculated on the basis of the member's months of service in which weekly union dues were paid. Specifics are outlined in our Local 506 Constitution and By-Laws (Blue Book).

A **STRIKE AND DEFENSE FUND** can be utilized to fund things such as arbitration, OSHA investigations, attorney fees for legal battles and appeals (i.e.: our fight for TAA benefits, unemployment, workers comp cases, hearings and etc.) Over the past years we could have saved an exorbitant amount of money from our General Fund if this would have been instituted. I hope the membership considers this proposal down the road.

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

Maximizing Your Benefits Today for Tomorrow October 29th, 2011 & November 5th, 2011

A GE Corporate Benefits Specialist will conduct two Retirement Seminars, one on Saturday October 29th, 2011 and the other Saturday November 5th,

2011 at the GE Learning Center. Members planning a retirement as part of the 2011 SERO and VRIP window should attend.

The Seminars will be held at the GE Learning Center Auditorium
October 29th, 2011 – 8:00am to 4:00pm
November 5th, 2011 – 8:00am to 4:00pm

The retirement seminars will be conducted by a Corporate representative at the GE Learning Center auditorium on Saturday, October 29th, 2011 and Saturday, November 5th, 2011. The seminar is broken into two sessions: The morning session is designed to help employees better understand the benefit plans available to them so they can maximize their coverage or options for the future. The afternoon session is designed for those who are closer to retirement and want more information about what options will be available at that time.

Please complete and mail or drop off this registration form to the Payroll Office, Building 42-530 no later than **Friday, October 7th, 2011**. Please indicate your preferred session. Reservations are limited and will be on a first come first service

basis. A confirmation will be sent to your home or attached to your paycheck indicating acceptance and the session you should attend.

If you are attending, please bring the items listed below. They will be referenced during the presentations and will help facilitate the discussion:

- A copy of your most recent GE personal share statement
- A copy of your latest Social Security estimate from the Social Security Administration
- A copy of your retirement estimate, which can be obtained by calling GE's Pension Benefits hotline at 1-800-432-3450 or on benefits.ge.com.

Registration Form

Name _____ Pay number _____

Employee SSO _____

Home address _____

Number of people attending (limited to employee and one guest) _____

Prefer: _____ October 29th, 2011 _____ November 5th, 2011

**Registration forms must be returned no later than
Friday, October 7th, 2011.**
