

LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

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Thursday, November 10, 2011

“Trail of Treats” A Success!!!

October 26 and 27, UE LOCAL 506 was invited to attend the Mill Creek Malls annual Halloween TRAIL of TREATS.

Erie's Gertrude Barber Achievement Center hosts the event, and this year's event was again a success.

A special thanks to **Sean Lynch, Jason Trayer, Giovanni Caputo, Kevin Ireson, Tom Skwaryk, and Brian Welch**, who took time to participate in the community event. Many thanks to all of you who donated money and treats, THANK YOU ALL.

Pictured below: Kevin, Tom and Giovanni



Occupy Erie

If you are in the 1 percent category, you will disregard this comment. If you are in the 99 percent category, then you understand what occupy Erie is all about.

All over the nation, protests are taking place to show the displeasure of the many, (us) who pays the price for the few (Corporate America). It will not end unless we end it. “SUPPORT THIS CAUSE”!

Vote For Eastern Regional Delegates

Voting for Eastern Regional Delegates will take place at this month's membership meeting. You must vote for seven candidates and the four receiving the most votes will serve as your representatives for 2012. The remaining three will serve as alternates.

Voting will conclude at the end of each meeting and the final tally will be conducted and posted by the election committee at the end of the first shift meeting. In case of a tie, a run-off election will be held at the December membership meetings. The nominees are:

Tim Newara , Bldg. 10	Dan Bojarski , Bldg. 10
John Milliron , Bldg. 50	Tom Skwaryk , Bldg. 18
Dave Chadwell , Bldg. 10	Debbie Warner , Bldg. 6
Brian Welch , M&C	Doug Wolf , Bldg. 63
Cyndy Casey , Bldg. 12	Jason Trayer , Bldg. 10

November Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- Vote for (2012) Eastern Regional Delegates
- General Business
- Committee Updates
- Swearing in Stewards

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, November 17, 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 October 28th we had our Step II Grievance Meeting, 46 cases were heard. Some of the issues addressed were payment, farm-out, medical center, upgrading in job posting, discipline, unjust termination, overtime calling in primary operators, harassment and intimidation by management as well as plant wide testing. We resolved 24 cases, 15 went on hold and 7 will go to Step III. Case #110 was regarding a farm-out issue in Building #7, a third shift is going to be put on so that will resolve that farm-out issue. Case #258, a back pay issue was settled favorably for the employee involved and we also had some unjust discipline removed.



I would like to thank the Departmental Stewards, **Andy Vasilik** and **Tim Helmuth** for helping to argue the cases for their departments at October's Step II Meeting. Job well done.

We will have a Step III Meeting on November 18th in Erie. **Steve Tormey** and **Gene Elk** will be coming up from our National Office to prepare for the Grievance Meeting. Gene Elk will be taking over for Steve Tormey when he retires. I am looking forward to working with Gene.

I wish all the Stewards good luck in the Elections, and I will see you at the Meeting on November 17th.

Happy Thanksgiving



President's Report

By Roger Zaczyk

146 New hires have been added to the 506 rank and file since last month's Membership meeting. WELCOME!!



November 2nd all the election committee representatives and the Divisional Chiefs Stewards met with your officers to make sure that everyone was on the same Page regarding the Department steward's elections. After discussing the process per the constitution, and the various ways the elections have been held in the past, I feel confident, that the membership, has selected the right people for the very important, Rank and File process.....ELECTIONS.

The UE 506 TOY DRIVE is in full swing, and at this writing, many folks have dropped off toys with close to \$1,500.00 being raised so far....the paint shop of Bldg. 10 dropped \$540.00 off last Friday THANK YOU!...PLEASE, help those that need help.

Steve Tormey will address the membership this month. Steve, our UE/GE Conference board chair, will be retiring January 2012. For decades his knowledge and guidance has prepared many generations of UE leaders. THANK YOU STEVE.

Lorie Panitzke will also address the membership this month. Lorie is the officer in charge of the HOMELESS CARE TEAM at the Erie Veterans Affairs Medical Center. As many of you are aware, the 506 Sports Committee has dedicated a HUGE AMOUNT of time and energy for numerous patient funds at our VAMC, helping those who need it most, in the community, is what UE Local 506 is all about.

New Stewards Installed 2011

All newly elected stewards will be sworn in at this month's membership meetings. We would like to thank all of you who made the commitment to represent and serve your fellow co-workers within your departments.

The job of a steward should never be taken lightly,

because you are the first line of defense. Always make sure that you get all the information (document it) that's available when confronted with a situation.

And most importantly, keep an open mind until all the facts are gathered and then move forward concerning the issue.

Young Activists Go To Japan

On Oct. 19, 2011, UE 506 member **Mike Ferritto** and UE 255 member **Autumn Martinez** flew to Japan for 1 week, as representatives of the UE Young Activists program. The purpose of the trip was to participate in a multi-national convergence of young union members.

Due to the amount of information, Mike will submit a detailed report to the UE National News for publication. Mike will also provide a report at all November membership meetings. In the meantime if you see Mike and have questions, please don't hesitate to ask about his experience.



FMLA Discussion

On November 3, **Marybeth Stevens-Carhidi**, **Deana Marsh** and **Patricia Westervelt**, (corporate employees) along with **Jason Johnson** from the Hartford met with union officials.

We had a very in-depth discussion concerning the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Although this is a federal law, the administration of this act may differ from state to state or how individual businesses apply this law.

As far as this location, (Erie Plant) we have some issues, but we find that most issues can be resolved if the mandated procedures are followed.

One of the growing pains our members experienced was the fact that FMLA issues were no longer directly handled within the plant. The company decided to outsource this part of the business to the Hartford.

Both sides agreed that there are ways to deal with unexpected situations and communication is usually the key to work them out. There are other avenues to take if you receive a answer that you are not satisfied with.

If you are having problems concerning FMLA, make sure that you have done your part and if the problems remain, then maybe another avenue needs to be taken.

Employee's Community Service Fund of GE

By Rob Celeski, Chairman

The Employee's Community Service Fund of GE (CSF) Administrator elections for Buildings 5, 6-1, 7 & 50, 12, 4/20/24/13b/44, and 2D, 14 & 42 are scheduled for December, 2011. Nomination will be accepted for these buildings November 28th thru December 2nd, 2011. Nominating posters will be found in these buildings at each CSF Bulletin board and other prominent areas. Election notices, listing the nominees, voting times and locations will be posted where necessary on December 5, 2011.

Each Administrator will serve a two-year term expiring December 31, 2013. Nominees must be a member of the CSF and work in the represented areas. CSF Administrators are fully responsible for the collection, administration, and operation of the Fund. For more information call **Rob Celeski** at 6490 or **Mike Ferritto** at 3212.

Unity Council Help

If you find yourself faced with a situation that could lead to a potential workplace problem with a co-worker, please call the union hall. We need to understand that when we work out our differences among ourselves, it's in our best interest.

Once these situations get out of our control, then our job becomes much tougher to rectify them. This committee was formed to help our members and when used properly, there is no better solution. The union hall will send someone to address your issue(s).

Change of Address Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Local _____

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

Toy Drive 2011

Hopefully, everyone has seen the toy drive posters that have been placed throughout the workplace. The drive began on November 1 and will conclude on December 1.

Toys or monetary gifts can be given to your stewards, chief stewards or dropped off at the union hall. Erie has one of the highest poverty rates in the state and this year's drive will be more important than ever.

Those who previously participated probably don't realize the impact that those gifts (distributed through various agencies) had on the children throughout the community. Last year's toy drive was a huge success and we know that this year's drive will be even better.

We would like to thank everyone who has or will contribute to this endeavor. This is truly a joint effort, with contributions coming from UE Local 506 Members, UE Local 618, EIAGPPE Local 3, IFPTE Local 138, Management, and even Retirees.

This is a time that we can all come together and put a smile on the faces of the less fortunate in our community. Special thanks goes out to **Kevin Ireson**, who once again has committed himself to chair this project.

2012 Holiday Schedule

The holiday schedule was discussed during last month's membership meetings and will be voted on at this month's meetings. The following list shows the tentative 2012 holidays.

New Year's Day	Monday, January 2
MLK Jr. Day	Monday, January 16
Good Friday	Friday, April 6
Memorial Day	Monday, May 28
Independence Day	Wednesday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 3
Veterans Day	Monday, November 12
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 22
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 23
Christmas Eve	Monday, December 24
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25

One floating Holiday - Requires Business Leader Approval

Having Personal Problems?


If you are having personal problems and feel the need to talk to someone, GE has hired a new EAP Counselor, **Keith Eller**, who can be reached at 875-4327.

If you want to talk to the union Employee Assistance Program Liaison(s), please call the union hall (899-3108) and we will have someone contact you. Don't hesitate to call either number, for they are there to benefit you.

AA Meeting Schedule

Where: Building 6, Room 150, Conference Room
 When: Thursdays, 1st Shift 12:00 noon
 2nd Shift 7:30 pm
 3rd Shift 3:00 am

RECENT LOCAL 506 RETIREES

Richard J. Kozak
Richard J. Allen


DECEMBER 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 L.A.C. MEETING	8	9	10
11	12	13 E-BOARD MEETING	14 R.A.G.E. MEMBER- SHIP MEETING 618 MEM. MEETING	15 506 MEMBER- SHIP MEETINGS	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 CHRISTMAS EVE HOLIDAY	24 CHRISTMAS EVE
25 CHRISTMAS	26 CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE