



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

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Friday, May 13, 2011

Constitutional Amendments To Be Voted On

During the March membership meetings, there were two constitutional amendments submitted and must be voted on by the members during this month's meetings. There will be a recommendation made by the Executive Board and the members will have the final say whether to accept or reject them.

Here is a reprint of those proposed changes. Under Article V, Section XII which currently reads: The term of the Officers shall expire at the regular membership meeting in the month of April beginning in 1991 and every two years thereafter. Successors will be installed at that meeting.

The Proposed Change: The term of the Officers shall expire at the regular meeting in the month of October, beginning in 2014 and every two years thereafter. Successors will be installed at that meeting. General office Election: April 2011, April 2013 and October 2014.

The second amendment under Article II, Section III currently reads: Special meetings may be called upon the request of Fifteen (15) members in good standing. The request must be in writing and must state clearly the purpose for which the meeting is called and no other business shall be transacted.

The Proposed change: Special meetings may be called upon the request of 10% of the current membership in good standing. The request must be in writing and must state clearly the purpose for which the meeting is called and no other business shall be transacted.

**CBC Rally
June 4th, 2011**

"The Times They Are A Changin'" . . . Not

GE has no financial difficulties, none, what so ever. All the palaver about "we need this to stay competitive" is HOGWASH.

Companies are making all these changes because they can, because there's nobody to stop them. Take a look at what GE has done to exempts recently hired. (PENSIONS, HEALTH BENEFITS)

GE wants to create a climate of give-back mentality....let it seep into the ranks little by little.

Our job is to stay with the truth. GE is incredibly profitable, and, has absolutely no reason to ask for any concession. Raising those issues is this Union's job. We have nothing to apologize for.

Negotiations with GE is not about what is right, or what is ethical, or what is fair....It's about how much they can coerce us and how well we can stand up to them.

Steve Tormey speaking to the 506 membership June, 2006.

May Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- Vote on Constitutional Amendments
- General Business Concerns (Contract)
- Committee Updates

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND TIMES ARE:

Thursday, May 19, 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

Hello everyone! On Friday, May 13th we will have our next Step II meeting. Hold cases will be applied again and over twenty new cases will be heard. On April 28th we had our Step III grievance meeting in Pittsburgh. Hopefully we have a resolve to some of the cases by the membership meeting on May 19th.



We had our Steward's Council Meeting on May 4th; I think it was a good turn out. Stewards and Alternate Stewards participated. I asked the Stewards to introduce themselves and the employee's of their department to any new employees and welcome them to the membership.

They should also keep everyone in their departments updated on all information coming from the Union hall and the National office. His or her steward should personally hand this information to each employee. This will help us get through this contract struggle we are about to have.

I hope General Electric doesn't think working hard for them year after year and making them millions in profits is a sign of weakness or that we have lost our will to fight. If so, then they are going to find out the hard way what union brothers and sisters really means. All we are looking for is for GE to be fair. Every one of you in that shop has earned it. Nothing was given!

New Chief Steward Elected

Brian Welch has been elected as the Chief Steward of Plant Services replacing John Milliron.

Being a Chief Steward carries a lot of responsibility and he will need the support of the people he represents as well as the entire union workforce. We want to thank all that showed an interest in this position.

UE Members Make A Difference

We always hear and read about the economic impact that GE has on this community as well as the state of Pennsylvania. No one would ever dispute that.

The problem with that statement is that it excludes the people who made it possible for GE to do exactly what they stated.

One would think that the paychecks that the workers earn and receive just goes into their pockets and never gets spent.

Some might even get the impression that our members don't do any thing for this community. The members of UE Local 506 have not only supported this community, but many other communities as well.

We have workforce that live in other cities and other states and those paychecks play a vital part of their local economy.

More importantly, this membership contributes to many organizations, charities, and plays a major part in the CSF (Community Service Fund) through pay roll deductions. We have raised thousands of dollars for the Veterans Hospital; we support the Police and Fire departments, the Food Bank, Community centers, Make-A-Wish Foundations, Toy drives and many others.

So while we would never deny what GE has meant to this Tri-State area, we will also not overlook what this Local and our members have done. We, for over seventy years, have made a difference in this community and it all started by helping each other. That's what this Union is all about.

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.

President's Update

By President Roger Zaczyk

There is no single clear way to prepare for contract negotiations and contract ratification vote. Facts collected over the life of the last contract, and the direction of the business in the economic arena, give the negotiating team a snapshot on what can be expected.



Your Local Officers, and more importantly the Executive Board, have to be able to accurately address every concern and questions that arise during the negotiations period. Misinformation is the enemy.

This Union's intent is to do everything possible between opening statements on May 24th, until the expiration of our current contract on midnight, June 19th, to bring back a Fair contract.

To me it is simple A SUBSTANTIAL WAGE INCREASE ... IMPROVE LANGUAGE FOR SICKNESS AND PERSONAL TIME REOPEN SERO WINDOWS ADDITIONAL PAID TIME OFF INCREASE THE PENSION FORMULA BENEFITS IMPROVE MEDICAL INSURANCE AND DISABILITY BENEFITS, AND IMPROVE THE LANGUAGE IN ARTICLE XXIII FOR JOB AND INCOME SECURITY, and the GENERAL ELECTRIC will still make tons of money.

Unity Council Information

Due to the recent movement of some of our Unity Council members, if you feel the need for intervention, please call the union hall.

We will directly contact someone from the committee and send him or her to the concerned area. This committee is very vital to our members and we should always use them to settle any differences among ourselves.

Once we have received updated information on committee members, we will publish that info in future UE news.

Contract Focus A Must

By Business Agent Wayne Burnett

Time is winding down my Brothers and Sisters, so we need to stay focused on what lies ahead. You all have been bombarded on the shop floor with information from the company's experts on how good you got it and what the company needs to survive in this economic climate.



You've heard about the high cost of medical care, the need to be competitive, the possible transfer of work to other places, the Caterpillar concern now that they have acquired EMD and the list goes on and on.

Well let me remind you of a few things. General Electric makes medical equipment, which it sells, all over the world. If they were truly concerned about the high cost of medical coverage, one would think they would be in the forefront of health care reform.

The idea of being competitive sounds good if you're starting from scratch, but for years now, GE's only competition was themselves. Isn't it amazing that GE would want the ones who produce the product to pay the cost while those at the top continue to pad their pockets.

On the issue of the company transferring work to other locations, let's not forget that they have been doing that for years and years. Some may see that as a threat to our job security and our well being, but in reality it is just another way to add to their bottom line. One thing you always need to be mindful of is that GE does what is best for GE no matter how they twist or turn it.

As for Caterpillar becoming a major player in the locomotive business, all GE needs to do is supply this workforce with parts, proper tooling, and settle this contract so that Caterpillar won't be an issue. This is a company that is not sitting on skid row, didn't have to be bailed out and continues to make millions in profits.

So next time your expert bosses, (who may be in their twenties) tells you how good you've got it, remind them to remember that when they are working on their second career.

National President Swearing In Officers

Pictured Below Left to Right: National President John Hovis, Chief Plant Steward Mike Hayes, Business Agent Wayne Burnett, President Roger Zaczyk, Ex. Board Member Matt McCracken, Vice-President, John Milliron, Treasurer Steve Hyzer, Ex. Board Member Tim Newara, Ex. Board Member Michael Ferritto, and Sergeant at Arms Les Burrows.



Election Committee Representative Needed

Due to Joe Smith moving to a new job, there is an opening for an election committee representative in building 12. If anyone is interested in taking over this position or nominating someone, you may do so at the union hall on May 16, through May 18, 2011 during normal business hours.

Members nominating themselves will sign acceptance forms and be given a questionnaire that must be returned by May 20, 2011 by 4:00.

Members nominating someone else will be responsible for transferring such material to the proposed candidate and the same time period applies. An election will be held only if there is more than one person seeking this position.

**CBC Rally
June 4th, 2011**

JUNE 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 L.A.C. MEETING	2	3 E-BOARD MEETING	4 CBC RALLY 12 NOON / MEMBER. MEETING
5	6	7	8 R.A.G.E. MEMBER- SHIP MEETING	9	10 E-BOARD MEETING	11
12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17 E-BOARD MEETING	18
19 Father's Day	20	21 UE CONF. BOARD MEETING NYC	22	23	24 R.A.G.E. BOARD MEETING	25
26	27 CONTRACT VOTE Iroquois H.S. MEMBER. MEETING	28	29	30		

CONTRACT 2011



“Turn It Loose”

CBC RALLY

When: Saturday, June 4th

Where: Hammermill Center (Gannon Auditorium)

West 6th and Peach Street • Erie, PA

Time: 12:00 to 1:30 P.M.

Food and Drink, along with Erie's "Annual Rib Fest" at Perry Square Park across the street from Gannon.