



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 62, Issue 8

© 21 Birosca Printing Co. Inc.

Friday, August 12, 2011

Convention Delegate Run-Off

Due to the fact that there was a tie between **Mike Michaelson** and **Rick Steele** for convention delegate at the July membership meetings, there will be a run-off election held during the August membership meetings.

The winner will join **Don Brown**, **Tom Bobowicz**, and **Dave Chadwell** as the fourth rank-in-file member to this year's convention, which will be held in Pittsburgh. The delegates will be expected to participate in workshops and serve on committees during this convention.

New Chief Steward

Thomas Skwaryk has stepped up to the plate and is now the new chief steward of building 18-c replacing **Greg Engel**, who has moved to a new job. He will finish out the remainder of the 2010-2012 term. Tom has served as steward in building 63 as well as 18c-2.

Hopefully, the members that he will represent will give him their full support as he takes on this very important position. Any position of leadership is not always easy and his strength will come from those he serves. Thanks Tom!

Tragic Loss

The Officers and the Executive Board would like to extend their deepest sympathy and condolence to the family and friends of Gary Characalla who lost his life due to an automobile accident in July.

Although we sympathize with any loss, John was an active employee who would have been returning to work.

Payroll Issues

We have been getting calls concerning payroll issues. Some of these calls concern being put back in the system if you were off for some reason or inquiring about the lump sum that those (who qualify) haven't received, but are entitled to.

We know that this is an inconvenience for some of our members, but please remember that we don't issue paychecks. It's our understanding that they (payroll) are working to get these problems resolved. It is their responsibility.

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!

August Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- General Business
- Committee Updates
- Vote for Convention Delegate

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, August 18, 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

We had our Step II meeting on July 29th. Some of the cases were payment, farm-out, management doing bargaining work, discipline and a service restoration. Nineteen of these cases were closed, 5 were put on hold and there were 2 that went to Step III. We have several cases submitted to Step III; however we are still awaiting a date.



Just to let you know that when the company is behind on orders, the finger gets pointed and it's ALWAYS at us!

Discipline has been on the rise again. We've told the company in some cases we have lack of parts, the process they are trying is too time consuming, and a lack of tooling has also been an issue. At the July membership meeting the members stated we are not getting tool crib coverage. These issues have been addressed with the company over and over. After talking to safety coordinators, we find out their issues are on the back burners also.

They want us to be competitive, yet perform quality work, but we are the ones that pay for their mistakes!

Just a reminder to any of you who have to go to the Medical Center for a work injury, there is a list of specialists that should be posted over there. Employees have the right to pick from that list who to choose for the proper treatment. I highly recommend you consider your options.

YOUR TREATMENT RIGHTS For Work Related Injuries

Despite what you may have heard from your employer, you often do have to treat with a "company doctor" for the first 90 days following a work injury. **You have the right to treat with any doctor you want for a work-related injury from day one except when your employer has done all three of the following:**

ONE: Your employer has posted a list of at least six (6) health care providers for you (not your employer-you!) to select from for treatment. These health care providers must be geographically accessible and have specialties that are appropriate based on the anticipated work-related medical problems that you have.

TWO: Your employer **must** have provided you with a written list of your rights and obligations regarding treatment for a work-related injury, which includes notification that:

- That you have the **Right to receive reasonable and necessary treatment** for your work injury or occupational disease **and** your employer must pay for the treatment if provided **by** one of their listed providers **and** your injury is determined to be work related.
- That you have the **Right to choose from the providers on the list, and the Right** to switch from one provider to another on the list, **and** to treat with any referral provider if referred by a provider on the list.
- That you have the **Right to emergency treatment from any provider.**
- That you have the **Right to a second opinion from any provider you choose if** the listed provider you are treating with recommends surgery, **and** to choose non-surgical care if the second opinion makes that recommendation (although this treatment must still be from one of the listed providers).
- That you have the **Duty to treat for the first 90 days with a listed provider** (after which time you have the right to treat with any provider after those first 90 days).
- That you have a **Duty after 90 days are up to notify your employer** if you begin to treat with a provider who is not on the list. Notice must be given five (5) days commencing treatment with the new provider.

THREE: Your employer asks you to sign a form (acknowledgement) **after your injury occurs** that the written rights and duties have been provided to you.

President's Report

By Roger Zaczyk

It is my understanding that the SERO and VRIP eligibility list from CORPORATE will be out very soon. It may even be out as you read this. If you are one of the considered ones, congratulations. If you do not wish to be considered, please notify the company of your decision so that others may be considered.



September looks to be a busy month for this Local, starting with an Eastern sub-regional meeting, then the Pennsylvania Labor History marker dedication, then a Regional meeting and followed by the UE National Convention. Hopefully, this local's participation will be of the professional standards we are noted for.

Septembers busy schedule will include an ALL INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP MEETING on Sunday, September 18th at 5:00 pm. Hopefully everyone will mark their calendar.

The General Electric's management and union relations teams have certainly been busy lately; there have been many warnings and weeks off discipline given in the past few months. Foul and abusive language, unacceptable attendance, claiming payment for time not worked, hiding and sleeping, poor productivity/abuse of paid time.....you should be getting my drift....have all been under the magnifying glass....a word to the wise is sufficient.

Monday, September 5th will be our next scheduled holiday, take time to reflect on the many gains Unions have given the working men and women, and take time to enjoy the last Holiday of summer.

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.

Legislative Action Committee Report

By Chairman Mike Ferrito

With so much of our collective energy spent on negotiating a National Contract and increasing daily struggles in the shop, recently our focus on the big picture has become blurred. In the coming months our challenge will be evaluating our purpose, and how we can effectively impact decisions being made across the country that affect the labor movement.

While it impacts us all, we must recognize that the national economic crisis has become a distraction from legislators continually missing opportunities to address the unfair trade laws, corporate loopholes, and bleeding out of good manufacturing jobs. It is our job to put a spotlight on "fair" trade over free trade, corporate accountability, and job growth that will sustain our middle class.

Mostrecently, we have watched an unprecedented battle over increasing the nation's debt ceiling. In our nation's history we have never seen such an aggressive refusal of funding, with such blatant disregard for averting the country's first ever-financial default.

While major American corporations are able to profit billions without contributing a single dime to our nation's coffers and receive billions in federal tax benefits, not once has it been suggested they help out. No explanation from Congress that the real reason taxes cannot be raised is because the individual taxpayer and small business are tapped out, and taxing politically connected corporations is never an option.

Not once has it been mentioned that the head of the President's job council's own corporation is sending more good jobs to China while unemployed Americans wait for a chance to rejoin the workforce.

Brothers and Sisters, **Jeff Immelt** said, "The truth is we all need to be part of the solution." The real truth, the truth for each of us, is that if you are not running a major American corporation then it is not likely that your priorities fit into the political agenda of the day. To make a difference we must make our collective voices be heard as one.

**BE ACTIVE
BE HEARD**

The UE 506/618 Legislative Action Committee is co-sponsoring w/our union

Country Music Fest this Sunday, August 14th at Presque Isle Downs & Casino

You must get a **FREE** ticket from your Chief Steward Redeemable up to the day of the event, Limited quantities Each free ticket will get you entrance to the Music Fest \$10 in Free Play at the slot machines in the casino and 50% off the Trackside Buffet

Local bands from the tri-state area will be performing.

- Caliber-Cleveland/Akron OH**
- Broken Road-Cleveland/Akron OH**
- Tony Rio and Relentless-Cleveland/Akron OH**
- Melissa Higbee-Pittsburgh PA**
- Joe Matakowski-Pittsburgh PA**
- Scott Blasey from the Clarks-Pittsburgh PA**
- Chris Higbee Project-Pittsburgh PA**
- House of Cards-Erie**
- Next of Kin-Erie**

All the union asks in return is that you wear your favorite 506 shirt with pride. The workers at the Casino have been struggling for 4 years to start a union.

Go in, have a good time and encourage the workers that they can achieve better working conditions and pay but only if they do it together. The AFL-CIO NW PA Area Labor Federation has a WE ARE ONE event at the Casino every Monday from 5pm to 9pm

Proudly wear you union shirts then too.

RECENT LOCAL 506 RETIREES



- James H. Altman
- Thaddeus A. Birch
- James P. Eaton
- Charles Hammond
- Larry E. Lichtenberger
- Jackson H. Parsons
- Joan L. Wasyl
- Elmer J. Tunda
- Mark Bane
- Dennis W. Stone

- Gregory A. Arlington
- Henry Brzostowski
- Rodney A. Gleason
- David Johns
- Wade T. Nugent
- Raymond E. Reynolds
- John W. Bittner
- Craig M. Sheldon
- Richard Laurie
- Earl P. Karr

Union Dues Deductions

The company informed the union hall stating that an error occurred and that union dues were not being deducted from some paychecks. The issue should be corrected and the missed deduction amount will be taken out of your paychecks starting next week.

If there were multiple misses, the company stated that they would spread out the "catch-up" deductions over the same amount of paychecks that were missed.

On a related issue, there were many newly hired employees that did not get the initiation fee (\$10.00) taken out of their paychecks. A list was given to the company and if you were missed, you might see that deduction.

4th Annual UE/VAMC Welcome Home "Fore" Veterans Golf Tournament
Sunday, August 21, 2011
Registration Deadline - Friday, August 12, 2011

SEPTEMBER 2011

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