

# LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 63, Issue 9

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Friday, October 19, 2012

## Eastern Region Nominations

If you are interested in representing the members at the Eastern Region level, you will have a chance to do so at this month's membership meetings. Nominations will be taken from the floor and any member in good standing can run for this position. By Constitution, the three officers are delegates and seven (7) others will have the opportunity to become delegates.

The four (4) receiving the most votes will serve as your (2013) delegates and the remaining three with the most votes will serve as alternate delegates. Should there be a tie, a run-off election will be held at the December membership meetings.

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## Eastern Region Meeting

The delegates of the eastern region will convene on Saturday, October 20th in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. This meeting is very important and a variety of issues will be discussed. As we continue to move this organization forward, we must understand that it will take the cooperation and effort of all involved.

It's no secret that labor is under attack on every front and if we are to fend off these attacks, it's imperative that we are all on the same page. Every aspect of this organization must be looked at, from finances, staff, organizing and any other areas that need to be addressed. Those attending will have the opportunity to hear what is going on in other areas of our region and it shouldn't surprise anyone that the issues are the same everywhere.

## Medical Center Concerns

If you are injured on the job, you must report it ASAP to your supervisor or to the medical center. This is for your own benefit. There have been so many problems with workplace injuries and we want to make sure that you cover your backside if you get hurt or injured while working.

Any delay may jeopardize a work comp claim. We've heard many stories and concerns about how employees may be personally treated or the treatment they receive, but those concerns can be addressed at a later time. Don't give the company the opportunity to say that your injury didn't happen here or is not work related. Only answer the questions concerning your injury.

The medical center has the responsibility to inform and supply you with a list of workers comp doctors you must treat with for ninety (90) days. Don't be intimidated or influenced by anyone concerning not reporting an injury because there have been too many and we don't believe anyone comes to work to get hurt.

## October Membership Meeting Notice

### Agenda:

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

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, October 25, 2012 (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 a Step II Negotiation Meeting on October 12th. We heard twenty-nine cases involving upgrading, overtime, subpoenas for court, CTPAT training, farm-out and discipline.

We closed 11 cases, put 12 on hold and requested letters to send 9 cases to Step III.

In November, we will discuss grievances concerning farm-outs of assembly, paint and possible test work. We will also discuss the transfer of work (C Gear grinding work) from the Cometa Machine to the Texas plant.

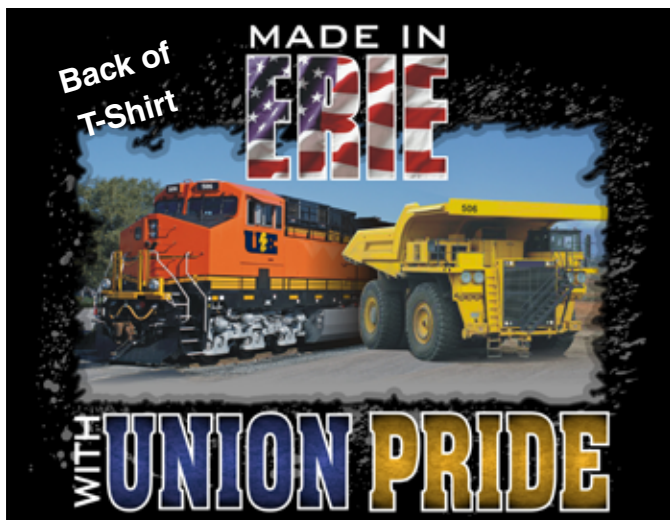
The company has told us they are building 15 wheels a week in Texas at this time, even though the locomotive side is still under construction. We continue to meet with the company weekly on Job Preservation and Growth, but safety and (top) Time on Product seem to be the major focus at these meetings.

The company is still investing Millions of dollars in the Erie Plant with new machines in buildings 2, 6, 7 and 12 and that is a good thing to talk about.

We have an arbitration case coming up on November 8th and we are preparing for that case. Remember, we are still experiencing discipline at record paces and this area is also a concern.

## New T-Shirts

Choice of Gold or White  
UE Logo on Front



## President's Report

By Roger Zaczyk

RUMORS are again on the top of the list for your Union Hall. Permanent Lack of Works to Alternate work assignment, to Floating Work Force, to Two Shift Only Business needs, to Expediting Farm-Outs... and the list continues.

The RUMOR MILL has been around longer than the state of Alabama. Everyone should be aware that if you heard a RUMOR, and you spread that rumor, it becomes FACT. If by chance, some SECRET information becomes yours, ask your Steward, or Chief Steward, VERIFY, VERIFY, VERIFY.

November 6th's election will have a huge impact on every working man and working woman in this country. I am amazed by how quickly some individuals forget the shape this country was in 3-4 years ago. My fear is that the TV commercials, along with the mailings, the deceptions, the distraction, and the distortion, will divide those who work every day for their families and their future. Fiction and fear have many faces. Understand what the candidates' positions are, or more importantly where they see this country moving. VOTE. Be aware, not everything politicians say, is entirely accurate. VOTE.

Walking thru the plant the last couple weeks, I have noticed a lot of the membership wearing the "KEEP IT MADE IN ERIE" shirts.

For the last couple of years, and fortunately for the Erie GE, the need for the manufactured products we make has increased. GOOD, FAMILY SUSTAINING, UNION JOBS. The quality and pride that the Erie workforce has proven time and time again, is the reason why customers around the world, place orders with Erie.

The confidence of the customer for the device built in Erie, coupled with the latest, and greatest, technologically advanced product ever seen, has given the Erie plant an edge over the rest of the world. Local 506 members should be proud of your accomplishments. Keep up the good work! With pride we all can say "MADE IN ERIE"

## Stewards Classes

Tuesday,  
November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

7:20 am - 3<sup>rd</sup> shift  
1:30 pm - 2<sup>nd</sup> shift  
3:20 pm - 1<sup>st</sup> shift

# ELECTIONS 2012

## THIS IS NO ORDINARY ELECTION

*(From the statement of the UE GEB, September, 2012)*

Working people have more at stake in this year's election than any election in decades. That's because one of the two major parties has become more hostile toward workers' rights, unions, and the social protections for which labor has fought for. The future of unions in the United States and the survival in areas that benefit the working middle class people is on the line this November.

UE's approach to elections is part of our philosophy of "independent rank-and-file political action." We, the UE are independent of both major political parties, and refuse to be taken for granted by either party. UE does not believe in throwing the Legislative Actions Committee's money at any candidate(s) who does not have the best interest of working class people.

UE has rarely endorsed candidates because we consider our endorsement to be the "UE seal of approval", and the opinions of the majority of our members. This has been our stance during our 76-year history and very few politicians have warranted or been reliable enough to earn our endorsement.

However, the policies the Republican Party is

offering in 2012 are lethal to people who built this country. It is one of the great shames in American history that the Republican Party, which came into existence 160 years ago in opposition to the greatest violation of workers' rights, slavery. In most instances, this party seems devoted to crushing our rights at every opportunity.

For the sake of your jobs, wages, retirement, our children's future, and your union, we urge all UE members vote against the Romney-Ryan ticket. We also urge you to vote against any anti-worker candidate(s) running for the U.S. House, the Senate or State office.

The U.E. 506 Legislative Action Committee has formally endorsed the following;

**President - Barack Obama-D**

**U.S. Senate - Bob Casey-D**

**U.S. Congress 3rd district - Missa Eaton-D**

**U.S. congress 5th district - Charles Dumas-D**

**PA. Senate 49th district - Sean Wiley-D**

**PA. House 5th district - Jason White-D**



# Election Day

## Tuesday, November 6, 2012

### Voter ID Not Needed

This is just a reminder that you **DO NOT AND I REPEAT, DO NOT** have to show ID if you vote on Election Day. If you read Tuesday's October 16, 2012 Erie Times News, you should have seen this article. That's not to say that you won't be asked to show some form of ID, but it is not mandatory.

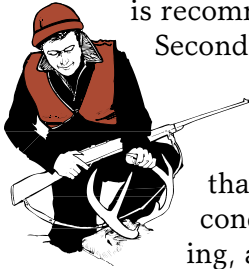
This tactic was designed to prevent certain groups of people from voting and used as a scare tactic to keep them away from the poles. Many people gave their very lives for the right to vote and suddenly

this year it seems to be a problem. Don't be swayed or deterred from casting your vote this year. If you're registered to vote and don't, then don't look any further than your own mirror.

Whenever the status quo tries to change something that stops people from certain rights, then you should look at the bigger picture because there may be something hiding behind it. We feel we know what's hidden behind that picture, how about you. Be careful, very careful, and get out and **VOTE!**

## Hunting Season

Hunting season has started and as you venture off into the woods, it's important to remember safety. Unfortunately, everyone is not as safety conscious as they should be when it comes to hunting. Just like any other sport you must adhere to the rules and take all safety precautions to avoid injury or even death.



First and foremost, a hunter's safety course is recommended for all regardless of age.

Secondly, since most hunters are inactive during the off season, a check-up from your doctor wouldn't hurt to make sure that you are in the best physical condition possible. Hunting, tracking, and a successful kill can be very strenuous, so you want to be in the best shape possible.

Check your gear and make sure everything is in proper working order and in its proper place. Wearing the proper clothing for the weather and correct amount of bright orange is not only safe, but in most states required by law. Tree stands should be secure and a harness needs to be worn to protect from falls.

Never pull the trigger unless you are sure without a doubt of your target and beyond. If at all possible avoid hunting alone and check the weather forecast before venturing off. It's always a good idea to let family or friends know where you are hunting and when you expect to be home. For many, going to a hunting camp with family and friends is half the fun and hopefully everyone who hunts has a successful season.

Remember, alcohol and guns do not mix and you should never hunt while impaired. Also, remember firearms are not permitted in your vehicle or on company property and if found can lead to immediate termination. **Be safe!**

## RECENT LOCAL 506 RETIREES



Gene Farley

George E. Plavcan

## Trail of Treats

Once again, UE Local 506 will participate in this year's "Trail of Treats" to be held at the Millcreek Mall on Wednesday, October 24th and Thursday, the 25th from 5 to 8:30 p.m. We should always be proud when we do things that benefit the children in the community.

After all, they are our future and they never forget how they're treated in life. Everyone can play apart in this by donating treats or monetary gifts to purchase treats through your chief steward or dropping them off at the union hall. Our members who volunteered their time last year really enjoyed taking part in this endeavor. This event, sponsored by the Achievement Center and the Sarah Reed Children's Center shows their commitment to our community as well.



## Toy Drive 2012

Imagine receiving something that you never expected or not getting something you may have wanted but never got because of the circumstances in your family. Think about the excitement or disappointment you may have felt either way.

This is why the toy drive that members and others in the community participate in each year is so important. There are thousands of children in our community and other communities as well that will experience one or the other.

This drive has been a success story and it seems to get better and better each year. This is what it's all about brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors, helping those who are less fortunate than us. This year's drive will start on **October 25** and conclude on **December 4th**.

Again, toys or monetary gifts to purchase can be given to the chief stewards or dropped off at the union hall. We would like to thank everyone in advance for your cooperation and a special thanks to **Kevin Ireson** who spearheads this drive.



# Plant Services Report

*By Brian Welch*

This is a quick note from plant services, we don't build parts for locomotives or put parts on locomotives, we make it easier for you to. When you move parts with a crane, we probably worked on it, or it might have been an outside contractor. When you measure your parts, we probably calibrated your measuring tool, or it might have been done by an outside contractor. When you turn that machine on, we probably worked on the substation that brought you that power, or it might have been an outside contractor.

If your light bulb was burned out, we changed it. We have a dedicated crew for light bulb changing. The journeymen electricians of central maintenance. Well enough of that, you get the general idea. Just like everywhere else in the plant, the farming out of bargaining unit work remains a constant battle in central maintenance. The company says it is too hard to manage this work. It's easier to have this work managed by an engineer who then coordinates the work with an outside contractor.

Far too often I hear of work being farmed out, while 506 members are watching their work going out the back door. I've also heard many other chiefs say, management would prefer to manage the door, rather than the floor. The company seems to have embraced the idea of the mobile work force, they don't post jobs anymore, they have meetings to see who they can move and from where.

Many people retire, jobs go unfilled. Union relations are holding up job posts, thus preventing you from moving to your new position. Managers think they have the approval to post and hire, and nothing happens. It is a shame that GE is not growing in Erie, Pennsylvania anymore. They are hiring in Fort Worth Texas. This is not a terrible thing, as all Americans need jobs.

It's a shame that all Americans don't benefit from belonging to a union. They don't understand that collectively we can make change and together we can keep corporate America in check. We as human beings are very uniquely different, but we're all the same too, which brings me to solidarity. We need to work together to preserve and advance our union. If you haven't been to a union meeting lately, go to one! I normally go to all three union meetings, first, second and third shift. I see all the same

people there. If all the members that could go to a meeting went, our hall would not be big enough.

Remember what you have today is because of what they stood for yesterday. When I say "they" I mean those people with many years of service. They didn't sacrifice you. Get involved! I love when they say "I remember when" I always say tell me how it used to be Grandpa! I'm just kidding. Thank You to the senior members of this union for making a difference.

Oh a special shout out to the global labs buildings 10e, 50 and 9, which are covered under plant services chief steward, thanks being seldom seen or heard! It is truly a pleasure to serve you the members of local 506! Don't forget to employ the unity counsel when you need to, or Keith Eller the employee assistance program (EAP) counselor. He is the person to talk to when a personal problem seems too much to handle. I know he has helped many employees.

One more piece of advice, I don't recall and I don't remember are always good answers for a day in court. **I AM THE CHIEF STEWARD FOR PLANT SERVICES AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER!**

**Happy Halloween**



## Holidays For 2013

The 2013 holiday schedule will be discussed at this month's meetings and will be voted on during the November membership meetings. Here is the tentative holiday list for 2013.

New Year's Day	Tuesday, January 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 21
Good Friday	Friday, March 29
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 2
Veterans Day	Monday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 28
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 29
Christmas Eve	Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December, 25
One Floating Holiday - Requires Business Leader Approval	

## Watch Your Mail

By now, you should have received information concerning the **Annual Enrollment for Health Benefits**. This period runs from October 15- November 9, 2012. This is a very important time of the year, for you will probably be inundated with a lot of information coming from the company.

You need to pay attention and read everything you receive in the mail with a **GE LOGO** to make sure that you are aware of the things you need to do. Hopefully, you have taken advantage of some of the sessions provided by the company on or off site for employees and their spouses.

We will continue to pass on any information that we get, but keep in mind, that it is your responsibility to take charge of the matters that concern you and your family.

## Members Approve Motion

A motion was brought to the membership at September's meeting that was, made, seconded, discussed and voted on by all three shifts.

**"NO UE 506 MEMBER SHALL INSTRUCT IN ANYWAY, ANYONE WHO IS NOT A UE 506 MEMBER, HOW TO DO UE 506 BAR-GAINING UNIT WORK"**

The motion passed unanimously.


## Mirror Check

With the number of employees here at the Erie plant and the diverse workforce that's here, we are not so naïve to think that there will not be problems at times. Even when we encounter problems, we should never go outside the family (union family) to get them resolved.

Most families fuss and have differences at times, but how those disagreements are handled, makes all the difference in the world. If you should find yourself in a dispute with a co-worker, keep it in the family. Use the family business (Unity Council) to help resolve them.

If you choose not to keep it in the family, then look in the mirror and decide if you made the right decision. If you have a personal problem that doesn't involve a co-worker, then consider **Keith Eller**, (875-4327) the EAP Counselor.

## NOVEMBER 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Daylight Savings Time Ends	5	6 Election Day Don't Forget To VOTE!!!	7	8	9	10
11 Veteran's Day	12 Holiday	13 STEWARD CLASSES 7:20 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 3:20 p.m.	14 R.A.G.E 618 & E-BOARD MEETINGS	15 LOCAL 506 MEMBER-SHIP MEETINGS	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanks-giving Day 	23 Holiday	24
25	26 First Day of Buck	27	28	29	30 R.A.G.E. BOARD MEETING	

## AA Meeting Schedule

Where: Building 6, Room 150, Conference Room  
When: Thursdays

1 <sup>st</sup> Shift	12:00 noon
2 <sup>nd</sup> Shift	7:30 pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Shift	3:00 am

## Change of Address Form

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Local

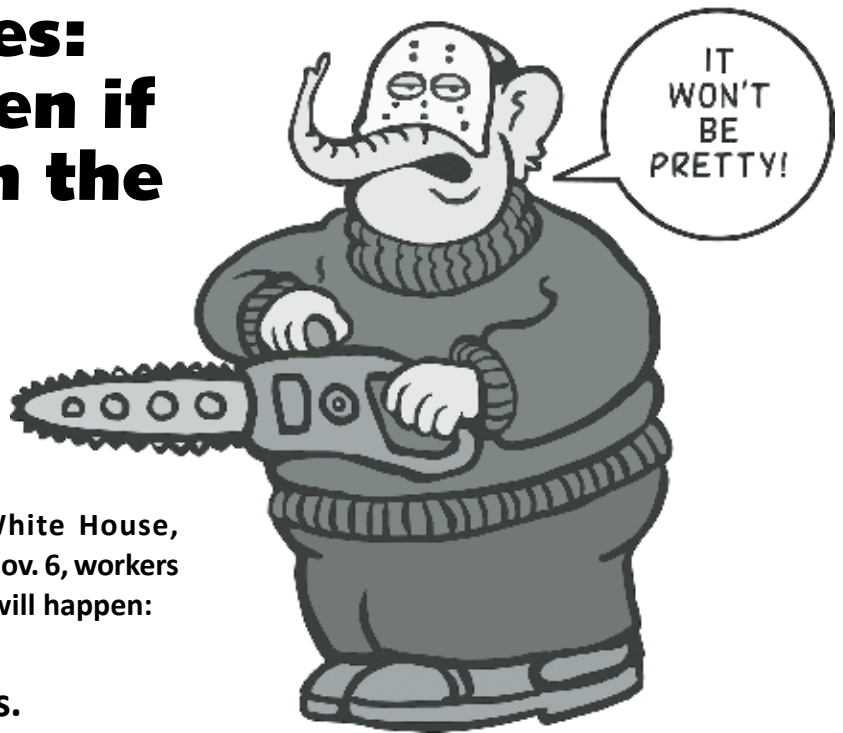
Return To: The Union Hall • 3923 Main Street • Erie, PA 16511

# Public Employees: What Will Happen if Republicans Win the Election?

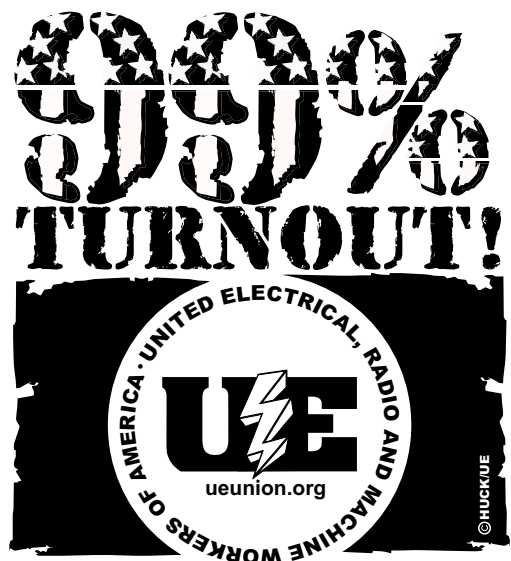
If Republicans gain control of the White House, Congress, and more state legislatures on Nov. 6, workers are in for a shock. Here is some of what will happen:

- More budget cuts and layoffs.
- More privatization and outsourcing of our jobs.
- More attempts to destroy public schools through charter schools and vouchers.
- More attacks on unions. The Republican platform “salutes” governors who took away bargaining rights, and calls for more states to do the same!
- More efforts to make us pay for our own healthcare, and to take away our pensions.
- More tax cuts for big business and the wealthy, further eroding the tax base.

Election Day is very soon – Tuesday, November 6. We have to stop the Romney-Ryan-Republican plan to attack public services, public education and public workers. Some Democrats have not done enough to help us, but the Republican Party in 2012 has a dangerous, radical agenda that is anti-worker, anti-public sector, and anti-education.



## **THE ROMNEY- RYAN-REPUBLICAN AGENDA: Too Extreme and Dangerous for Public Workers!**



Visit the UE website [ueunion.org](http://ueunion.org) for election updates

# PRIVATE-SECTOR WORKERS

## What Will Happen if Republicans Win the Election?

If Republicans gain control of the White House, Congress, and more state legislatures, workers in private-sector jobs, including manufacturing, are in for a shock.

The 2012 Republican Party platform calls for more attacks on unions. It endorses a national “Right-to-Work” (RTW) law – encouraging members to quit the union – plus the “RAISE Act” – to let employers give some workers selective raises without union approval. If passed, these two laws would enable bosses to legally bribe workers to get rid of the union.

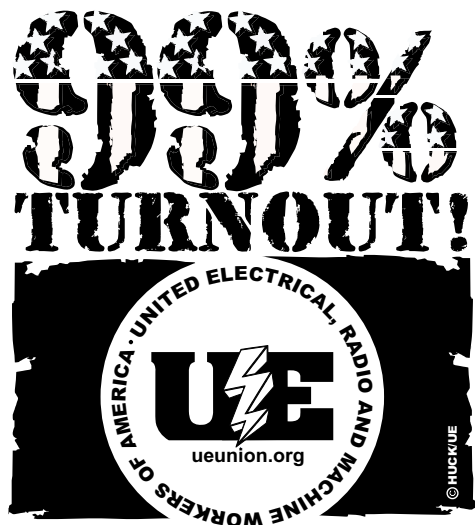
Also on the Republican agenda:

- More layoffs, plant closings, and jobs shipped overseas.
- Support for employer pay-cutting schemes, in the name of “competitive wages.”
- More attacks by employers on our healthcare and pensions.
- Turning Medicare into a “voucher” and privatizing Social Security.
- More tax cuts for big business and the wealthy, and tax increases on us.

Election Day is very soon – Tuesday, November 6. We must stop the Romney-Ryan-Republican plan to attack unions, good wages, Social Security and Medicare. Some Democrats have not done enough to help us, but the Republican Party in 2012 has a dangerous, radical agenda that is harmful to working people.



## THE ROMNEY-RYAN-REPUBLICAN AGENDA: Too Extreme and Dangerous for Workers!



Visit the UE website [ueunion.org](http://ueunion.org) for election updates.