



# LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 63, Issue 1

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Friday, January 13, 2012

## New Insurance Now In Effect

As you all know, the new Health Insurance went into effect at the beginning of the new year. We're sure that there will be many questions concerning this new plan and the option you may have chosen. We will do our very best to answer or get answers for any of those questions.

There was a ton of information that was mailed to everyone by the company beginning last year. Hopefully, you read and kept some (if not all) of it to refer back to it when needed.

Because every situation is not the same, your decision should have been made based on you or your families need. You should have received a Bank of America (GE Benefits Account) Debit card which contains your HRA Credit amount depending on the option you chose. You also had the opportunity to sign up for FSA (Flexible Spending Account) that can help defray the cost of other medical services. Whatever the case, we'll do the best we can to help you. In case you didn't receive your card or accidentally disposed it, the number to call is 1-866-994-5857.

*(See Article on Page 3)*

## Dues Increase Recommended

As you read in last month's news, there was a recommendation to raise the union dues. This decision was based on the increase in our per-capita to the national as well as an increase to the eastern region. We are currently in the fourth year of a 5-year plan that was approved at the 2009 National Convention.

Our local then discussed and approved those

recommendations. This increase is needed to help maintain the union's viability and obligations. For many years, there was no need to raise the dues, but now the time has come. Thanks to my predecessor, who had the vision and prepared the union for a rainy day, which came in the latter part of 2009.

Although our employment level has improved, there are projects that need to get done that we don't necessarily account for in our everyday budget. The recommended increase is \$1.25 and if approved by the membership, we will then follow the constitution, Article VI, Section 4 in the future.

## Contract Books Are In; Do you have one?

The union hall was notified that the 2011-2015 contract books have arrived. See your PTA or BL to get one. Each member is entitled to a contract book, so make sure you get one. The union hall was not given a supply of books and if you don't have one, it is their (company) responsibility to get you one.

## January Membership Meeting Notice

### Agenda:

- General Business
- Committee Updates

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, January 19, 2012 (All meetings)

7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)

1:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)

3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

# Chief Steward's Report

By Mike Hayes

Divisional Chief Stewards Election will take place this month. The election committee representative for each division will oversee the Elections. If you have any questions, please contact your election committee representative or refer to the Constitution and By-Laws of Local 506. The winners will be sworn in at the February membership meeting. Good Luck to all. Our next Step II meeting will be January 27<sup>th</sup>, some of the upcoming cases are discipline, minimum qualification on job posting, Farm-out, Management doing bargaining work and payment issues. January 12<sup>th</sup> we will have a Chiefs pre-grievance meeting to go over the hold cases as well as the new. We will also submit cases to Step III and go over them.



# President's Report

By Roger Zaczyk

The holidays are over and I hope everyone enjoyed the time off. HAPPY NEW YEARS!

2011 was a challenging year, but make no mistake about it, 2012 will be another challenging year.

The business is reading that most of the Erie plant will see an increase in volume for the first half of this year. I have no doubt that the membership will rise to the challenge. Proof is what was done in the fourth quarter of 2011.

OHV, after record production in 2011, will feel the affects of a business decision made in 2011. Erie's OVERFLOW WORK facility in Fort Worth, Texas, is scheduled to start producing motorized wheels in the middle of 2012.

The officers have received official notification from Union Relations, that the GE ERIE plant will have a scheduled 2 week shutdown this year, Fiscal Weeks 29 and 30. Article VIII in our contract book explains the process for pay for those hired after June 18, 2007, the Earn as You Go.



## Unity Council; Give it a Chance

In today's world, if you pay attention to the local, national, or world news, you will read or hear of situations where people just don't seem to get along. We can't solve what goes on at those levels, but here at GE, we have an opportunity as a union to resolve some of these (why can't we just get along) issues.

Having different backgrounds or coming from different communities, we must find a way. The reason we keep bringing this to your attention is because it's important that we get along with each other. The unity committee was formed to deal with these sorts of problems.

Once the company gets involved, then our chances to resolve issues begin to diminish. If you're having problems with one or more of your co-workers, give your union a chance to fix it. Granted, sometimes we may not be able to help, but for the most part, we know we can resolve most issues. Contact your steward, chief steward, or call the union hall and we will send someone to aid you.

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

## Bank of America Information Session

Please join us for an informational session to help you understand the plan and better navigate the web portal.

- Learn best practices on using the BoA portal and managing your FSA, LPFSA or HRA dollars.
- Understand how to pay a claim
- Know when and how to substantiate a claim

### WEBINAR DETAILS

**DATE:** Thursday, January 19, 2012 or  
Tuesday, January 24, 2012 or  
Thursday, February 2, 2012

**TIME:** 6-7 AM EST 3-4 PM EST 1-2 PM EST

**DIAL IN:** 1-800-920-5548

Visit [ge.com/healthahead](http://ge.com/healthahead) for an additional listing of the Informational Sessions

### Medical Contributions:

Medical Contributions are calculated by the day. If someone is paid four days in 2011 and one in 2012, four days will be at the 2011 benefits rate (HCP, GEMB or Alternate Plan) and one day at the GE Health Benefits rate (Option 1, 2 or 3).

2012 HSA and/or (LP)FSA deductions will not be taken out until the first full period in 2012.

### Savings Accounts – missing cards?:

- If enrolled in Option 1, 2 or Option 3 with a LPFSA, employees should have received a Bank of America Debit Card directly from Bank of America. Please call [Bank of America](http://Bank of America): 1-866-994-5857 for a replacement.
- If enrolled in Option 3, their HSA card will be sent directly from their HSA bank ([HealthEquity](http://HealthEquity) 1-877-877-4297 for HealthAmerica or [OptumHealthBank](http://OptumHealthBank) 1-800-791-9361 for United-Healthcare) or the bank you chose. Call the appropriate bank if you did not receive the card.

### Health Plans:

To receive replacement health plan cards please call the plans directly –

- [UnitedHealthcare](http://UnitedHealthcare): 1-800-551-2445
- [Anthem](http://Anthem): 1-866-804-9321
- [HealthAmerica](http://HealthAmerica): 1-866-838-9374
- [CDPHP](http://CDPHP): 1-877-754-5063

### CVS Caremark:

Employees who were previously enrolled in a GE

medical benefit plan, will not receive a new CVS Caremark ID card for 2012. You will continue to use your old CVS Caremark card.

**Important Reminder:** When filling a prescription, participants should link their new savings account card to their CVS Caremark account in order to use their HRA or HSA funds to pay for it.

In the event that a member enrolled in Option 1 or 2 also has an FSA funds (in addition to the HRA funds) the debit card will pull funds automatically from the FSA account first. The only way for participants with an FSA/HRA stacked card to pull from the HRA first is to either pay for the prescriptions out of pocket or have it billed. They would then need to submit the claim to Bank of America and select the HRA account for reimbursement.

**Bank of America Information Sessions** are scheduled over the next 4 weeks. See attached e-mail invite from earlier today. These sessions are open to employees and spouses and are conveniently scheduled at various times (including 6 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 4 pm, 7 pm, and 8pm) through early February. Additional sessions will be scheduled late this month. Attending these sessions is voluntary and not on paid time.

**GE Health Benefits Education Booklets** will be sent to sites for distribution to GEHB members in early February. More information to come in future.

Below is a list of the **customer service phone numbers and websites for GE health care plans, dental, vision, pharmacy** and other applicable **benefit administrators**.

**GE Benefits Center:** 1-800-252-5259 – eligibility, enrollment, cost and plan information

**GE Employee Assistance Program (EAP):** 1-866-272-6007 (Option 1) - behavioral health & substance abuse support

**Health Coach from GE:** 1-866-272-6007 (Option 2) – professional, private health care guidance

### All options—Pharmacy

[CVS Caremark](http://CVS Caremark): 1-800-509-9891

### All options—Dental

[GE Dental Care Plans—MetLife Dental](http://GE Dental Care Plans—MetLife Dental): 1-888-529-8474

### All options—Vision

[GE Vision Care Plans—Davis Vision](http://GE Vision Care Plans—Davis Vision): 1-800-433-9375

Remember Dental and Vision plans continue to work the same as they have in the past.

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hometown Heroes Bowling Tournament

**EASTWAY LANES • SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2012 • 12:00 Noon**

### Application Form / Tournament Rules

1. Event shall consist of three (3) games bowled on one (1) pair of lanes assigned by the Tournament Director and all decisions by the Tournament Director are final.
2. **This is a singles event.** Prizes will be awarded to the highest game and highest series bowled by both men and women. There will be no duplication of awards.
3. This is a fun-filled community event for our sponsors and friends of all ages.

◆ **ENTRY FEE: \$15 each** ◆ **4 people on a lane**  
 ◆ **Limited to the first 160 paid entries**

**Deadline to PREREGISTER is Friday, February 17, 2012. Availability is limited the day of the event.** Junior bowlers are welcome. Check in begins at 11:00 a.m. There will also be an auction. All

proceeds will benefit **Erie VA Medical Center.**  
**Mail ENTRIES to: UE Local 506; 3923 Main Street; Erie, PA 16511. You may also drop off your entry to the Union Hall at the above address any weekday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Make entry fee check payable to: UE 506 Sports Committee. Questions concerning the tournament, please contact the Matt McCracken at 824-0148.**

**ENTRY FORM – TEAM LINE UP** (please print)

◆ **ENTRY FEE: \$15 each** ◆

FIRST and LAST NAME	PHONE NUMBER
1. _____ Captain	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Foursome not required. Singles or Pairs accepted

## Welcome Back

The officers and the executive board would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back in this New Year. We hope that you had a pleasant and enjoyable holiday season. As we enter into the year of 2012, we know that there will be challenges (old & new) that we must face. We're confident that if we handle these challenges together, we will be just fine. The key word is "together". So welcome back brothers and sisters.

## Thanks from the Jaglowski Family

Back in November of 2011, a benefit was held for Ed Jaglowski, a former employee who is partially paralyzed from a bicycle accident which occurred on Memorial Day. The event was held at St. James Place on Buffalo Rd. It was a huge success and the family would like to thank all the UE and GE employees who participated by purchasing 50-50 tickets or attending the event. The winner was Wally Orlowski. Although Ed is progressing slowly, he is improving. Thanks again and God Bless you! The Jaglowski Family.

FEBRUARY 2012						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 L.A.C. MEETING	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7	8 R.A.G.E. MEMBER- SHIP MEETING	9	10	11
12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21 E-BOARD MEETING  Mardi Gras	22 <sup>619</sup> MEMBER- SHIP MEETING  Washington's Birthday	23 506 MEMBER- SHIP MEETINGS	24 R.A.G.E. BOARD MEETING	25
26	27	28	29			