

LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 63, Issue 2

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Friday, February 17, 2012

Chief Stewards to Be Sworn In

The newly elected Divisional Chief Stewards will be sworn in at this month's membership meeting. The job of a chief steward is very demanding and the responsibilities are huge. They are the overseers of the stewards system in their divisions and advisors not only to the stewards, but to each and every member.

We would like to thank those who accepted that task and also thank those who were willing to take on the position. Remember; standing together keeps us from falling apart. Get behind your representatives so we can continue to move your union forward.

AT ISSUE 2/2012

- 39.9 Hours of Personal No Pay
- Dimeing out of fellow Union Brothers, including written statements
- Retirees doing bargaining unit work...Instruction?
- Experienced operators doing work out of class and category
- Transfer of Technology to Non Union shops...Enabling Technology Transfer
- Adequate Staffing All Shifts...Farm out concerns
- Availability of Proper Tooling
- Working with Smoochers
- My Work, My Job

In Sympathy

The Officers and Executive Board of UE Local 506 wish to extend our sincere condolences to the families and friends of Charmaine M. Schaack, Building 6 who passed away on February 10th.

Membership Approves Dues Increase

During the January membership meetings, the members approved the proposed dues increase that was recommended to the Executive Board. This increase will help your union to continue to maintain its viability and obligations.

This facility, (just as our individual homes) must be cared for and properly maintained and there are projects that need to be done and this will help us to do that. In the future we will follow our Constitution concerning any increases.

February Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- ☐ General Business
- ☐ Committee Updates

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, February 23, 2012 (All meetings)

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

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

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

President's Report

By Roger Zaczyk

As of this writing, the Officers have had two meetings with the company. One meeting was with the entire board on the direction of the Erie business, and how the production looks going into the 4th quarter. The other meeting was the officers and the company setting the stage for the Job preservation and growth steering committee (GP&GSC). It is clear, that the job preservation part of this subject is for keeping the good work the members in this plant are currently experiencing..... keeping the good times rolling.

The GROWTH part of this committee is spelled out in the National agreement, page 84. This language was introduced for the purpose of effective dialogue concerning manufacturing techniques and input from employees on process changes.

The divisional Chiefs have been busy, it seems that UR believes that if SWORN, SIGNED STATEMENTS can be compiled, discipline can be issued. To me this is a WITCH HUNT. UR should spend more time educating the relatively NEW managers on the language in the contract dealing with bargaining unit employees, rather than trying to make a case on what may or may not have been said. In my opinion, NO UNION MEMBER should sign any statement that may result in discipline to any co-worker or themselves.

Chief Plant Steward's Report

By Mike Hayes

Well we finally worked through our heavy back log of grievance Cases. We had a Step II on January 27th and will have another on February 17th. At this time every case in the plant will be heard, except for 5 new cases.

In the Month of March steward's classes will start and will run four weeks. The dates of the class are March 5,12,19 and 26. Third shift classes will be at 7:20 am, Second shift classes will be at 1:30 pm and first shift classes will start at 3:20 pm.

Most of the grievances we are dealing with now

are Farm-out, discipline, upgrading in job posting and some payment issues. We have been resolving most cases. We have two cases submitted to Step III. We will apply a few more before the date will be set. I will ask that it be held in Erie. Chief stewards will be sworn in at February's membership meeting, hope to see most of you there.

Building 7 Chief Steward

By William Crawford

I would like to start out by saying I am again looking forward to serving as building seven chief steward for the next two years. The last year we saw a lot of turnover plant wide as over 4000 people moved jobs. It took a lot of retraining in our building but I think we are finally getting everyone up to speed. Along with the turnover on the union front we saw a change in our coe position. With this change we have seen a new coe Jeff Smith who has been putting money back into our building. We received a much needed new large fork truck for our cab paint and prep shipping department as well as new man lifts in the paint booths. We also have a new laser and punch being installed in our machine shop. Hopefully this will help keep our slack numbers down and get our farmed out laser work back. We hope to continually see this trend of upgrading and investing in the best union made locomotive facility in the world.

New Employees

If you are a new employee and you don't know or understand what is going on in your work area (s); Ask! The best place to start is with the union steward of your department. Every employee should know who their representative is and every steward should make their presence be known to the people they represent.

We sometimes receive calls from individuals who say they don't know who their steward is. There were many new stewards elected back in November, so make yourself known to people in your area (s). Likewise, each steward should know who and how to contact their chief steward when needed.

"Is This You?"

SEE NOTHING...HEAR NOTHING...SAY NOTHING



"DID YOU HEAR?"...Most every time, when someone says, did you hear? It becomes fact.

Rumors, Half Truths, Misinformation, or downright lies, all become fact after they are repeated.

Too easily people are subject to the wrong information, and too easily the self anointed deans of knowledge, are quick to pass on what may or may not be accurate.

Everyone has experienced the RUMOR MONGERS which is part of being in the work environment. Frankly speaking, most everyone can QUESTION THE SOURCE, but unfortunately most will repeat what was said.

Do everyone a favor, when someone, and We know who these people are, is willingly giving you information outside of normal work, stop and think about the validity.

"YOU KNOW WHAT I HEARD?"

Registered???



**Voters Registration
deadline for the
General Primary is
March 26, 2012.**

Not sure if you are registered?

Call: 1-877-VOTESPA

If you plan to vote in the General primary April 24, 2012 you must be registered and enrolled in a political party to vote in that parties primary.

If you are not registered and would like to, please contact your steward to request a registration form. Forms will also be available at membership meetings.

Please Vote!

Unity Council

Once again, we feel the need to bring to your attention the importance of the unity committee. We know that there will be problems, but worker on worker problems can and should be avoided.

I would think that each and every one who works here has someone they truly care about (I call it family). Are you willing to risk your family's well being because you can't get along with a co-worker? We understand that some things are out of our control, but usually most confrontations stem from little things building up over a period of time.

If you feel that there may be a potential problem, talk to your steward, chief steward or call the union hall (899-3108) so we can send someone and ward off any possible discipline that may be forthcoming. Make no mistake about it, the company is more than willing to settle these disputes and the outcome is not going to be pretty. Help us help you! That way, we can all continue to take care of the most important one(s) in our lives.

RECENT LOCAL 506 RETIREES

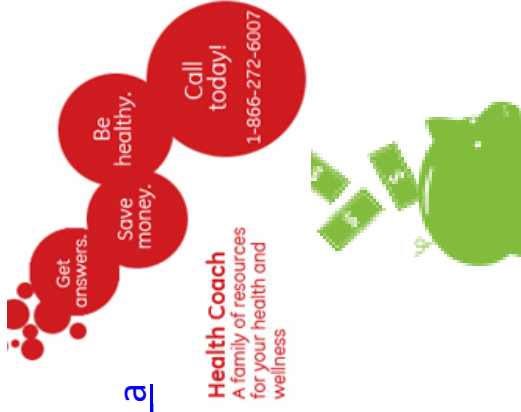


Robert A. Wilson
Robert Koprowski
Timothy Buck
Russell Adams
Merle Boling
Alan Cagara
Patte L. Dillen
Robert S. Kightlinger
James R. Laird
Craig T. Steudler
James D. Vaughn Jr.
J. Mark Zaczek
Jerome B. Zukowski
Carl S. Cenerosky
Wayne E. Heuvel
Howard B. Baxter
Harry Herman
Deborah A. Kalivoda
Donald R. Kidder
Wesley P. Nupp
Raymond J. Smith
Gregory J. Wigham

Joe Sullivan
Oswal L. Fausnaught
James Arndt
George Barnes
Eric Bujnowski
Earnest Crockett
Thomas F. Gilmore
James Leemhuis
Daniel Roudybush
Robert B. Urban
Edward R. Way
James L. Zewe
Gary A. Brumbaugh
Timothy P. Denial
Robert Kowalczyk
Ernest A. Dance
Jerry P. Heyer
David J. Kempisty
George W. Nowling
Daniel J. Seth
Joseph S. Letizo

GE Health Benefits – Tools & Resources

- Bank of America Information Tele-conferences
 - https://globalempservices.com/myhealth/healthbenefits/html/learn_about_your_plan/info_meetings.html#bank_of_america
- Healthcare Benefits Education Booklet
 - Using Your Plan and Saving Money, Tips, and Contact Information, Tools & Resources
 - Shipped to your home in late February
- Tentatively - HealthAmerica Reps On-site late Feb Mon/Wed 6–8 am & Tues/Thurs 2-4 pm
 - Cindy Hendrickson's Office in Bldg. 14-1
- My Interactive Health Guide – DVD & Online
 - <http://myinteractivehealthguide.com/>
- Treatment Cost Calculator – Register today!
 - <http://www.treatmentcostcalculator.com/ge>
- Health Coach from GE: 1-866-272-6007



Healthcare Questions

As per the national agreement, we are permitted eight (8) hours of company paid time per week to answer any questions concerning healthcare. There are two employees (Leo Grzegorzewski, ext. #5213 and Steve Hyzer). Steve's number has not yet been established as of this printing, so we will publish it once it's setup.

Please keep in mind that the healthcare program is new to all of us and at times, it may take a little time before your question can be answered. We will continue to pass on any information that is beneficial. Meanwhile, in the course of your everyday conversations with your co-worker(s), share any info that you might have in like situations concerning the plan.

United Way Liaison Addresses Members

If you think you have it bad, then you should have heard the speech that Ron Oliver delivered to the members at last month's meetings. Ron replaced Tony Ferritto as the United Way Liaison. He went into detail of what the united way does and the important part it plays in this community and throughout Erie County.

We all have seen how they respond to those who may experience some unexpected disaster due to no fault of their own. He spoke on how we as working class people have also benefitted because of unforeseen circumstances. Let's be real about it. There were many people who were once gamely employed who lost their employment and had families who needed help. Erie still has one of the nation's highest poverty rates and it's unfortunate that this problem exists.

He went on to explain the many other services or courses they provide that would be beneficial to our members. The best was when he praised your (our) union for the major part that you play through your contributions and the impact it has in making a difference. You should be proud of that and please remember that any one of us may someday need those services.

Coordinators Corner

One of the main things Safety Coordinators are doing this time of year is making sure all employees see the 2012 G1 Safety video and review the job specific SAFEs. We also have been busy giving the proper safety orientation to new employees in our departments. We've had a lot of movement with retirements, new hires and people coming on board from other buildings.

As an employee in a new area, familiarize yourself with the building and workstation. Make sure you know your evacuation plan and Shelter in Place area. If you're not sure about something, ask an experienced employee, Safety Monitor or Safety Coordinator.

This is extremely important when working with new machines, equipment and processes. The people around your area will help you and answer your questions. More and more employees are being sent to other buildings around the plant to make repairs or to install part shortages. There are many electrical and mechanical hazards present in all buildings, but especially in Buildings 10, 26 Test and 60.

Most recently the spotlight has been on Defector safety in Building 26. We have addressed the issue of sending untrained employee's over to make repairs with the Company many times with no resolve. This is an extremely dangerous building to work in if you are unfamiliar with the process and hazards.

If your PTA sends you to another building, especially a test area, please ensure that you are familiar with the area specific SAFES. Anyone going to Bldg. 26 Test should have met with the area Safety Coordinator for proper training. Refreshers are required every year. If you feel a task is unsafe please speak up. You should never feel forced to do something that you feel is unsafe.

Stop and see your Safety Coordinator or Safety Monitor for assistance. We are working hard each and every day to keep you safe. Please work with us, looking out for yourself and others, so we can all keep punching that clock and going home to our family and friends each and every day.

Steward Classes

March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th
7:20 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Sports Shorts

Don't forget about the "10th Annual Hometown Heroes Bowling Tournament", which will be held at Eastway Lanes on Sunday, February 26. The deadline to preregister is Friday, the 17th.



Contact Matt McCracken at 824-0148 for more details. The event will benefit the Erie VA Medical Center. It's a way to give thanks to the ones who sacrificed themselves for the freedom we enjoy. **Thanks Vets!**

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

MARCH 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 STEWARDS CLASS 7:20 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 3:20 p.m.	6	7 L.A.C. MEETING	8	9	10
11	12 STEWARDS CLASS 7:20 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 3:20 p.m.	13	14 R.A.G.E. MEMBER- SHIP MEETING	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19 STEWARDS CLASS 7:20 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 3:20 p.m.	20 E-BOARD MEETING	21 618 MEMBER- SHIP MEETING	22 506 MEMBER- SHIP MEETINGS	23	24
25	26 STEWARDS CLASS 7:20 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 3:20 p.m.	27	28	29	30 R.A.G.E. BOARD MEETING	31

Change of Address Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Local _____

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

Active UE 506 Employees Only - As of 2/6/2012

Service (Whole Years)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
# of Employees (UE 506)	967	0	11	312	169	31	443	266	177	16	85	44	23	45	51	17	14	40	13	18	25	73	71	85
Service (Whole Years)	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	
# of Employees (UE 506)	15	16	14	10	11	14	26	45	47	74	56	34	42	150	86	23	12	9	4	2	0	0	1	