



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 63, Issue 4

© 21 Birosck Printing Co. Inc.

Friday, April 13, 2012

UE-GE Conference Board

The next UE-GE Conference Board meeting will be held here at the union hall on Friday, April 20, 2012. This yearly meeting gives us a chance to hear what is going on throughout other GE locations that are represented by our National Union.

I'm sure there will be some interesting conversation from the locals that attend and we will give the members an update during next month's meetings.

Also during this month's meetings, **Chris Townsend** (our UE Political Action Director) will address the members as to what is going on in Washington DC. Chris has always given us the inside scoop on all the politicians who come out of the woodwork during election time and he's very knowledgeable in the political arena.

SCAMS...BEWARE

It was brought to our attention that text messages were being sent to some employees with the "Bank of America" name associated with it, stating that your card has been locked and asking you to call a certain number and give your account number and expiration date to re-activate it.

If you received this message via text and honored that request, you should call Bank of America at (866-994-5857) and report that your card was lost / stolen so they can reissue new card (s) with new account numbers.

The Bank of America card you received in the mail has your HRA/FSA information and is not associated with any commercial banking. You should be very careful not to provide sensitive or personal information to unknown sources.

Stewards Classes to be Continued

Because the stewards classes have shown so much interest, there will be an additional class on May 8th. Eastern Regional President **Debbie Gornall**, along with Chief Plant Steward **Mike Hayes** will continue to conduct (per steward request) some classes so that our stewards are well informed of their rights and the responsibilities of being a steward.

We would like to remind you that these classes can be attended by any member and we would encourage members that would like to know more about your union to attend. This gives you the perfect opportunity to better understand what unionism is all about and seek answers to questions you may have.

We have many new members who have never worked in a union environment or maybe came from a different union. These classes are invaluable and well worth the time and effort put into them. Thanks again to Debbie Gornall who is providing this valuable information.

April Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- ☐ General Business
- ☐ Committee Updates

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, April 19, 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

On March 23rd we had our Step II meeting and some of the cases involved payment, farm-out, discipline and job posting issues. We ended with 8 closed cases, 11 cases sent to Step III and 13 cases held at the step II level. On April 19th we will have a Step III here in Erie where discipline and farm-out cases will be heard.

On March 27th we had a scheduled arbitration on unjust discipline. The company approached the union and made a settlement offer rather than going to arbitration and the employee involved agreed to the settlement.

The employee was brought back to work April 9th after being out over a year. It was a long struggle and I would like to thank **Mike Ferritto**, the departmental steward for all his hard work and loyalty he put into this member's case.

We also want to thank **Gene Elk**, our National Representative for his hard work in bringing closure to this case as well as the members who stood in support of their union brother. We have more Stewards classes coming up in May, and hope to see more stewards, alternates or any member who would like to attend. These classes are important to all of us, and the more we learn, the better we will be able to represent the membership the way they deserve.

GE Benefits Handbooks

Hopefully, you have received your new GE Benefits Handbooks in the mail. If you haven't, they should be arriving soon. Please, for your own sake, keep these books so you can refer to them and better understand what your benefits are and how they work. These books will benefit you greatly, so keep them at hand.

On another note, you should also have received your new union card. If you haven't, let your steward or chief steward know so we can make sure you get one. Remember, if you have moved, make sure you notify the union hall so we can have your correct address on file.

President's Report

By Roger Zaczyk

Because of the success of the steward's classes that have been conducted, Eastern Region President **Deb Gornall** has agreed to continue with the classes at least once a month. The next class will be on May 8th, focusing on worker to worker issues. I was encouraged by all those that attended the April 3rd session, and getting educated on what is and what isn't past practice. Thank you, Deb.

Congratulations to our newly formed Unity Committee for successfully completing the 2012 Community Services/Community Action, Field Mobilization, UCAN/Union Counseling Course. For over a month of Thursdays, **Tim Newara, Kevin Ireson, Norberto Lozada, Don Brown, Sharon Young, and Eric Boyajian**, participated in workshops and attended classes that affect working Men and Women. I personally commend our new members of the UE 506 UNITY COMMITTEE, and Thank You for STEPPING UP!

Building 12 Report

By Chief Steward Bob Herrick

I would like to welcome the new members to local 506. Here is a little information on Building 12. In the front of the building we have the Shaft Line, which machines, heat treats and grinds shafts for Building 6, Off Highway Vehicles and renewal parts. The shaft line is all piece work and OHV is part of the GE's new mining group.

We machine all our parts and assemble what we call the wheel motor, in which the rim and tire are bolted to the outside of the electric motor hub. OHV's biggest customer is Komatsu, the largest manufacturer of electric mining trucks. OHV has a mixture of piece work and day rate.

The wind gear box division will be closing in May. From the middle of the building to the back is part of Locomotive assembly. We have Main Cab assembly and Rad Cab assembly, which are day rate. These two areas supply Building 10. There are about three hundred and twenty union members. We have twenty union stewards and eleven alternate stewards. On the management side there are two building COE'S, four BL'S, and too many others to mention.

New Amendment Proposed

During the February membership meeting, a new amendment that is not currently in the Constitution and By-Laws of Local 506 was proposed. This amendment reads as follow: "It should be written that we the members agree that a retired UE 506 member should **Not** be allowed to return to work in Union Jobs as an outside contractor, including training purposes. We need to preserve our Union Jobs to our Union Workers".

Also an addition to this would read: "If they are requested to come back to work for GE, GE would need to hire them as a new UE/GE employee". This proposal as well as any other proposed changes to the constitution will be discussed and decided by the members.

Constitution Review and Proposed Amendment Changes

A trio of e-board members has been meeting to review and make changes to the Constitution and By-Laws of Local 506. The first phase is simply a "housekeeping" matter which deals with terminology and examples of these changes are included.

As stated in the present constitution, any proposed amendments turned in by the end of the March meetings will be discussed and voted on during the May membership meetings.

During last month's meetings, proposed changes were submitted concerning various articles. **Under Article II, Section 2 which currently reads:** "This Union shall meet at least once each month. Notices of all meetings shall be printed in the Union's official publication. Only members in good standing shall be admitted. This shall include General Officers and Staff Representatives.

The proposed change to this article would read: "This Union shall meet at least once each month. Notices of all meetings **and any issue to be voted on** shall be printed in the Union's official publication. Only members in good standing shall be admitted. This shall include General Officers and Staff Representatives."

Another proposal submitted was under Article V, Section 10, paragraph 3 which currently reads: "Any day within fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the election, absentee ballots for those members scheduled for temporary military leave, can be obtained, in person, at the Local 506 office during normal business hours, provided they present a copy of their orders." **When picking up the ballot the member must sign for it.**

The new proposal would read: "Any day within fifteen (15) days prior to the date of any election, or contract voting, absentee ballots for those members scheduled for temporary military leave, or work for company out of town, can be obtained, in person, at the Local 506 office during normal business hours, provided they present a copy of their orders or informal contact from supervisor." **When picking up the ballot the member must sign for it.**

Constitution House Keeping

Page 2 Article I

Change: District Council #6 to Eastern Region -section 1

Page 5

Remove District Council and change to Eastern Region -3rd paragraph, section 3

Remove District Council and change to Eastern Region -3rd paragraph, section 4

Article IV

Remove Financial Secretary -2nd paragraph, section 9

Page 14

Remove subsequent to the 1989 general election of officers -section 6

Page 15

Remove subsequent to 1989 general election of officers -section 10

Page 17

Section 12

Remove District 6 and replace with Eastern Region -section 13

Page 19

Article VI

Section dues cost (\$12.25) per week effective Feb. 1, 2012

Page 21

Continued on Page 4

Article VIII *Continued from Page 3*
 Change Foreman to Technical Advisor -2nd paragraph -section 1
 Last sentence District Council to Regional Council -section 1
 Page 26
 Article IX
 Correct spelling, precessing to processing -section 4
 Page 28
 Article XIII
 Change District Council to Eastern Region -section 2
 Page 30
 Article XIV
 Change District Council to Eastern Region -section 6



The 24th Annual "Charities for Children, Inc." Adult Bowling Tournament was held on March 25th at Eastway Lanes. **President Rick Makowski** reported a total of \$23,266 was raised, making it another successful event.

Throughout the 24 year history of this event, many organizations have benefited from the proceeds this tournament has produced and over \$279,967.00 has been raised. Many thanks go out to all that participated in this event including those who bowled, the sponsors, and the many volunteers.

It should be noted that the various winners donated their winnings to the charity of their choice. This is an example of what this Union is all about (giving back to the community).

Special thanks goes out to UE members **Carl Daugherty, Dan and Beth Biletnikoff, and Valarie Pinetti** as well as retirees **Ken Shaffer, Jerry (Rocky) Rzodkiewicz and Bill Warren**. Thanks again!



TIME: 11:00 AM Start-time
WHEN: Saturday, April 21, 2012
WHERE: PENTAGON PAINTBALL
 6901 Avonia Road
 Fairview (Rt.98, Just North of I-90)
WHO: Any UE 506 Members + Friends & Family (Minimum Age 10)
ENTRY FEE: \$50 Per Person
 (\$50.00 Includes Protective Mask, Gun, 500 paintballs & CO2 Cartridges)
 (**Additional paintballs and CO2 can be purchased at Pentagon Paintball**)
(Paintballs must be purchased at Pentagon Paintball)
NO AUTOMATIC FIRING WEAPONS!
Steak Dinner after Event (BYOB)
SIGN UP: See your Chief Steward or Sports Committee Member.
Make checks payable to the:
UE 506 SPORTS COMMITTEE
 Drop off application with checks to the UE 506, 3923 Main Street, Erie, PA
Limited to first 100 paid applications.
Entries close Friday, April 13, 2012 at 4:00 PM
THIS IS NOT A TOURNAMENT

*We will be doing freeplay,
 just to have a good time*

Name	Phone #

QUESTIONS?
CALL MATT MCCracken: 824-0148

Coordinators Corner

– April 2012

As Safety Coordinators, we field many different types of issues in and around our buildings. Depending on the areas we cover, these can run the gamut from general safety to very trade specific hazards. One of the major complaints we hear constantly deals with pedestrian safety and unsafe vehicle operation on the avenue as well as in the buildings.

Motor vehicle operators (including plant vehicles such as Cushman's and fork trucks) complain that pedestrians blindly walk out from behind obstacles or across the roadways. Pedestrians, on the flip side complain about avenue traffic and some jitney drivers not looking behind them before reversing or cushman's not honking at intersections or driving too fast inside the buildings.

The fact of the matter is that everyone needs to be more aware and safety conscience. Yes, pedestrians do have the right of way, but that doesn't always prevent accidents from happening. What chance would you take by walking blindly across a busy intersection or not paying attention as you back out of a parking space without looking? These complaints come in on such a regular basis that we pause and wonder how we have become so disconnected here in the work place.

A new traffic committee, (led by plant security) comprised of exempt and hourly workers have been formed to help address many of these issues across the plant. Topics such as shift change traffic, painting crosswalks, lighting and signs are being discussed. Security is using radar to enforce the speed limit. Remember, if we follow the same rules in the plant as we do outside the plant, we will be much safer. Drivers, (all drivers) please be vigilant at all times for there is no need to rush. Please contact your Safety Coordinator with any suggestions that could benefit this committee.

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 member that may be mourning the loss of a love one.

UE 506 Bowling Tournament

The UE bowling tournament held on April 7th at Eastway Lane was, once again very successful. As usual, the sports committee did a super job of putting this event together.



This year's top team was Chicken's Choice, followed by Eddie and the Boozers, Team Fifteen, Finger Paint Blasters, X-Men and X- Moonlighters. The high game for the men went to **Ron Ingaldi & Jeff Hendricks** (tie), and for the women, **Sandy Lee**.

The high series went to **Rich Posten** (M) and **Nancy Morrison** (W). Thanks to all who participated this year and to the many volunteers who helped make this event a success. Watch for future events!

Pictured Below: Team "Ballz Deep"; **Fred Smith** (bldg. 5), **Brian Ewing** (bldg. 10), **Trevor Carnes** (bldg 2), **Darrell T. Orelski** (bldg. 10), and **Rodney Schultz** (bldg. 10) taking a break at the tournament.



Change of Address Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Local _____

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

Reminder: Help is Available

We want to continuously remind you that if you feel the need to talk to someone concerning workplace problems or personal problems, remember we have a Unity Committee that deals with worker on worker problems and also the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) for more complex issues.

Call the union hall if you want Unity Committee Involvement at 899-3108 or you can contact EAP Counselor **Keith Eller** at 875-4327. Either option is an asset to this membership, so please use them.

Pictured below, Keith Eller, EAP Representative speaking to members.



Pictured below, front to back, left to right, **Don Brown, Tim Newara, Sharon Young, Norberto Lozada, Kevin Ireson and Wayne Burnett** (original Unity Council representative)



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

MAY 2012

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

RECENT LOCAL 506 RETIREES



Timothy D. Nagle
Gary Winnett
Walter Fisher

James L. Smialek
Joanne Wagner

**Give
aways &
Drawings**

**HealthAhead
Day**

Cooking Demos
& Educational
Information

Healthy
Exercises

Also ...
Quad Games
Sign-ups taken

BMI (registration
required)
Blood Pressures
HRQ

Vendors and
Suppliers

**And
Much, Much
More!**

Date: May 16, 2012
Time: 5:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Where: In various buildings and on avenue

Imagination at work