



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 63, Issue 8

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Friday, September 14, 2012

Unions under Attack

By *B.A. Wayne Burnett*

If you haven't been paying attention, maybe you should put more focus on the things going on around us. Right now, we seem to be concerned only with our own self needs. Don't get me wrong, it's important and human nature that we might think this way, but remember, you didn't get where you are today by yourself. It took years and the many sacrifices of those who came before us and who fought many battles so we would and could have a decent way of life (and wages) to care for our families.

We can't lose sight of these things. Right now, unions all over the country are under attack and it's not just some, but all. How did we get to this point? More importantly, what are we willing to do to stop these attacks? If anyone working in this plant thinks that the life style you live was given to you out of the goodness of someone's heart, then you better wake up and come out of your dream world.

Have you paid attention to the closing of three schools here in our own back yard? How, when we say that no child will be left behind, constantly hear that our kids can't compete with children in other countries, but yet close schools and our children are the ones who pay the price. Then, the teachers get blamed because the powers to be think that they are overpaid.

The private sector, state, and many other unions face the same dilemma. **You should think** about how this plays into your lives today. Do you have kids in college? Could you afford to send them making minimum wage? If we don't fight for the right to organize, then we might as well throw in the towel and bow down to the 1% who already controls everything. For those who live and work in "Right to Work States", they must continue to fight for change on the political front to have laws

changed that would give them the right to organize. After all, this is America.

Those of us who have these rights now, must do everything in our power to keep them. Our politicians once again, are vying for your votes with promises that never seem to come to pass and hopefully we can find (and choose) the most honest ones who have our best interest in mind. This is some serious stuff folks and we don't have time to be distracted by little things and miss the big picture.

The American Dream is slowly turning into the American Nightmare and if we are not careful, (very careful) there will be no more middle class. Because this is now a global world society, don't think for a moment that those who say "God Bless America" are the ones who are saying "God Bless Corporate America" as they continue to watch jobs get shipped out of this country. The USA might have brought home more medals than any other countries during this year's Olympic Games, but China made our uniforms. How many union workers would have enjoyed doing that work?



September Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- General Business
- Committee Updates

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, September 20, 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 will have our next Step II meeting on Friday, September 28th. We have twenty one new cases and seven previous cases were put on hold. Various issues such as upgrading, overtime, farm-outs, discipline, management doing bargaining work and CPAT training remain a constant battle.

On August 22nd we had our Step III meeting here in Erie, the longest one (time wise) to date with over twenty cases being heard. During this month's membership meetings, we will give a report and the company's position on these cases. In November, there will be an arbitration case held here in Erie and will be argued by our National Representative **Gene Elk**.

Stewards Classes



Tuesday, September 18th, 2012

7:20 am for 3rd shift

1:30 pm for 2nd shift

3:20 pm for 1st shift

This will be the second part of FMLA. Stewards, Alternate Stewards and any members are welcome to attend these meetings.

Injuries Mounting

As we meet with the company on job preservation, the one area that continues to stand out is the number of injuries that happen on a weekly basis. We realize that no one comes to work to get hurt, so we just want to remind you that your safety is not only important to you, but your family as well.

If you feel unsafe or see something that is unsafe, bring it to someone's attention. Coming to work is a good thing, but going home the way you come in is even better. **BE SAFE!**

President's Report

By Roger Zaczyk

Summer is closing fast. Leaves will be changing and before you know it, snow will be flying. There is nothing like the seasons in Erie.

By all accounts, GE Erie will again post record profits and from what has been told this fall; Work looks good going into the second half of 2013. There will be an increase of DC traction motor work toward the end of 2012 and running into 2013... Building 6 will have a need for additional workers. Building 18 on the other hand will have a down turn of some of their work in the same time frame. Time will tell how that plays out.

The job preservation and growth committee is still meeting regularly; most of the discussion of late has been focused on defects. Poor workmanship, vendor quality items and parts shortages, these all fall into the defect bucket. **Escapes**, which is sending the device that you are working on to the next work station without that part (s) being installed, or done incorrectly, is a big issue. Everyone agrees that by trying to install or repair a part when the unit is down the road is a bad business and takes considerably more time.

Speaking to the membership this month will be UE's National Political action director, **Chris Townsend**, who will give us his insight on this November's very important election. **Sean Wiley**, who is running for the State Senate seat presently held by Jane Earl, will also address the membership.

Dave Kitchen, long time executive board member and long standing Chief Plant Steward, has retired. Brother Kitchen has for many years, stood up for the Rank and File Democracy this union was built on, and for those who knew him, his tireless commitment to this union, was exceptional. Thank You Dave, Enjoy.

RECENT LOCAL 506 RETIREES



Lawrence E. Hill

David L. Kitchen

Paul L. Johnson

Safety News

Last month, some of our Safety Coordinators, along with some management personnel attended the National VPP conference in Anaheim, CA. They attended many workshops and over 300 vendors were there showing various products, some of which could be used here. Many ideas were also shared that could be beneficial to our workforce.

The CEO (**Mark Roberts**) of Morton Salt Inc. impressed some with his commitment to safety. He touched on how dangerous it is to mine salt and that nothing was more important than safety.

This kind of commitment should be used by all of us,

for accidents don't only happen in the workplace, but can happen anywhere. Most accidents and injuries occur because we sometimes lose focus on what we are doing.

Other coordinators held discussions with other union people such as **Nancy Lessin** of the United Steel Workers Union, who spoke openly that some shop hazards exist because some management allows it. She also pointed out some laws that we may need to be more aware of. It may have been a little uncomfortable for some, but we have to take the good with the bad. In doing so, it can only make things better. This trip was deemed a success for those who attended and safety is the one area that both sides could and should agree on.



Bring a Smile

This is a reminder that we will again be asking and seeking your support for this year's Toy Drive. This endeavor has been very successful over the past years and we would like it to continue.

Your past contributions have brought many smiles and tears to those who are less fortunate in our community. There is joy in knowing that some

Report from Building 6

By Roy King

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your chief steward. We here in six face the same issues as the rest of the plant. Farm-outs are the biggest issue and even though we have had some returned, we will continue to work on getting other farm-outs back.

As in all buildings, the rumor mill is alive and well in six and I want to put to rest that there has been no talk of impending lay-offs. A/C motors are staying pretty steady this year and next year. OHV wheels are going strong and if the company lands the Russian order for D/C traction motors, it will be significant for next year. We should know shortly how that pans out.

Please remember that we are brothers and sisters, so we should not be running to the boss when we have issues with one another. We must learn to work through these issues among ourselves. I believe it will make us a better and stronger union if we do.

There has been a growth in stewards on the off shift, which is very uplifting. It's good to see new young brothers and sisters stepping up to the plate and I want to thank them for their support and dedication.

child will wake up on Christmas day and open a gift that they never thought they would get.

Thanks to each and everyone who has contributed in the past and hopefully you will continue to do so this year. More information will be coming soon. Special thanks to **Kevin Ireson** who has been instrumental in this endeavor.



Sports Shorts

The UE Local 506 PAINTBALL EXPLOSION will take place Saturday, November 3. (See insert in this newsletter.)

The UE/VAVS golf tourney was a complete success ... Special thanks to UE 506 Sports Committee Volunteers, **Matt McCracken**, Gauge Cal., **Joe Smith**, Bldg. 18T, **Chuck Goodman**, Bldg. 7, **Steve Hyzer**, Bldg. 10, **Mary "K"**, Bldg. 18, and President **Zaczyk**, for helping The VAVS raise \$5,000 for our local Vets. Thank you all who donated and participated.



The UE 506 SPORTS COMMITTEE will be doing their only fund raising event ... THE BASKETS OF CHEER ... Winners to be drawn at Decembers Membership meeting.

Here to Help

EAP Counselor **Keith Eller** has been a great asset when it comes to dealing with personal problems. If you need to talk to someone in complete confidentiality, we highly recommend contacting Keith at 875-4327. He's the ultimate professional and can help you in situations that we don't understand.

We have the Unity Council available to deal with worker on worker conflicts. We suggest strongly that you use this committee to avoid any discipline that may result from flare-ups between union employees. After all, it's not all about you, so think about the others in your lives. Call the union hall at 899-3108 for assistance.

OCTOBER 2012						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 L.A.C. MEETING	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day 	9	10 R.A.G.E. MEMBER-SHIP MEETING	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 618 MEMBER-SHIP MEETING	18	19 EASTERN REGION E-BOARD MEETING	20 EASTERN REGION MEETING
21	22	23 E-BOARD MEETING	24	25 506 MEMBER-SHIP MEETINGS	26 R.A.G.E. BOARD MEETING	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween 			

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

Change of Address Form

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Local

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

2012 UE 506 PAINTBALL EXPLOSION

Time: 11:00 AM Start-time

When: **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 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 and steak dinner after event.

****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: 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, OCTOBER 26, 2012 AT 4:00 PM

This is not a tournament. We will be doing freeplay, just to have a good time.

Name

Phone Number

Questions ? Call Matt McCracken at 824-0148