



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 64, Issue 5

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Friday, April 12, 2013

Brothers and Sisters

By *B.A. Wayne Burnett*

Once again, some of us are in an arena where we've been before. There are many of you who have never experienced what is happening right now. This is a crude reminder of what happened back in November of 2009. That was a very ugly day for this union and that ugliness has again reared its head. While there was a significant drop in the business back then, this is a completely different scenario.

Those who have been here for some time now know that volume has always dictated the employment level. We've experienced up turns and down turns in this plant for years and somehow managed to get through them. This is a completely different situation that we are facing now. Last Wednesday's Times News article not only shed light on the business side of the company, but also gave the community a firsthand view of what this announcement was really all about.

It's ironic that on the very same day they informed us with this news, they (company) were meeting with elected officials to give their reasons for this decision. The big word that always pops up is competitive and how we must be complete to compete with our so-called competitors. We constantly hear how Caterpillar is selling their locomotives for less and are paying their employees lower wages.

It may very well be true, but has anyone even thought about the days when GE had the locomotive business basically all to themselves? Has anyone thought about money that this location has made this company over the years? Erie GE Transportation recently received the business of the year award, producing more profit than any other business within the chain, making over a billion dollars.

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Points of Interest:

- The company informed the union hall that shut-down for 2013 will be FW 31 and FW 32. That is the last week of July and the first week of August.
- Steward and Membership Education Classes will continue on May 7. These classes are open to all members who are interested in learning how this union works. Now more than ever, education is the key to making sure our members understand the importance of unions and why they are needed. The class times are 7:20 am, 1:30 pm, and 3:20 pm. Eastern Region President **Debbie Gornall**, along with Chief Plant Steward **Mike Hayes** have done an excellent job conducting these classes. **Gene Elk**, Secretary UE-GE Conference Board also took part in the last session.
- Save our Jobs Rally will be held on Tuesday, April 16, starting at 2:30 at the east gate at the inter section of Main and Water street. This rally is very important due to the recent announcement that the company made. Now is the time for solidarity and we must stand together and show GE that we are one.

April Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- Nominations for Trustee and Alternate Trustee
- Swearing in of New Officers
- National President Bruce Klipple will Address Members
- Committee Reports

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, April 18, 2013 (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

First of all I would like to thank everyone for your support in March's election. For me it is a great honor to serve the membership in this position and I will never forget that you put me here. We all have a tough job ahead of us, dealing with these Texas issues.

As bad as it may sound right now, I believe there are still going to be jobs for us at the Erie plant and as officers we will work hard to see that happen. In this plant we have the best workers anywhere. We proved that for the past 16 years with this company as union workers.

We will have our next Step II on May 3rd, which thirty-six cases will be heard. On April 26th we will have our Step III and we have a large agenda that we are preparing for that at this time.

Trustee and Alternate Trustee Needed

Nominations for trustee (1) and alternate trustee (1) will be taken from the floor at this month's membership meetings. There were two openings for trustee that runs from 2013 to 2017 and only one was filled. There is also an opening for an alternate trustee (runs through 2015) and any member in good standing has the opportunity to run for these positions.

A special flyer bearing the names and qualifications of those interested will be distributed. The election for these positions will be held at the May membership meetings. We would like to thank all who have served in this position.

President's Report

By Roger Zaczyk

The elections are over, and now is the time to heal, and come together as this union has always done. Thank you all who took time from their busy schedules to participate in the Democratic, Rank And File process.

Scott Duke, our new local president, will have the many challenges that every president has had since 1937. Scott is fortunate, as was I, to have a seasoned set of officers to guide him thru the many difficult times. The experienced Executive Board will also be a positive. I truly wish him the best.

During the last couple of weeks, I heard much talk about CHANGE. For 75 years this union has held itself with the Democratic, Rank and File processes put in place for years by many leaders of this local. UE Local 506 relies on the principles set forth in the UE constitution—Unity, aggressive struggle, and Rank-and file control. Our forefathers established, and passed on to us, a tradition of democratic unionism. Many degrees of respect have been given this Union by the GE and in the community. Challenges faced by members of the past, are constantly being faced by those members of today, and will be, for those in the future. Change, for the sake of change, is political. Change for no other reason but for change is wrong.

I truly believe that this Local will keep moving forward for its members, their families, and the community. We all have to HOLD ON, keeping our eyes on the prize.

In closing, I want to give my appreciation for all the members and board members who have STEPPED UP, during the last couple years. The knowledge and experienced guidance Business Agent, **Wayne Burnett**, and Chief Plant Steward, **Mike Hayes** have given me, was invaluable.

SAVE OUR JOBS RALLY

Tuesday, April 16, 2013 • Starting at 2:30

East Gate at the intersection of Main and Water Street

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This news is a slap in the face not only to our members, but also to this and the surrounding communities as well. This announcement, if carried out, will affect not only the tri-state area, but other states as well. We certainly hope that our local politicians understand the seriousness of this announcement and get behind the employees in this plant.

We realize that GE contributes to this community and all that's good, but so do the employees who spend the paychecks they earn. This community needs to realize that the wages we earn were not gifts from the company. They were negotiated and agreed upon by both sides and now to say that we are not complete just adds insult to injury.

Our competition is said to be Caterpillar, and there is some truth to that, but remember that until they bought EMD, they were never thought about. As for the difference between prices, it's only natural that Caterpillar would lower their price to break back into the market. Does that mean that they produce a better product, I think not. Everyone knows that we build a superior and better product, so it's shameful that GE would run to the community and point the finger at UE.

We view Texas as our real competitor. This plant wasn't built, as the company states, to handle a mega surge in the business. They had enough land to rebuild right here, but many of you can recall when they tore down many buildings and moved south or out of the country. This has been a planned project for years and isn't it funny how they somehow manage to build in a right-to-work state. You should see the obvious in this move. While this news is very disturbing and unwarranted, we intend to (by any means necessary) fight for these jobs.

National President to Swear in Officers

National President **Bruce Klipple** will swear in the recently elected Officers at this month's 3rd shift membership meeting. Bruce was elected at the 72nd National Convention in 2011 replacing **John Ho-vis**.

He's been a UE member for 32 plus years and has served in many positions. Bruce will also address the members and give some insight on what is going on around the country.

Under Watch

Due to some recent and unfortunate incidents that have occurred in some parking areas within the plant, the company has placed cameras in certain areas. These cameras are in addition to what they already have within their monitoring system.

This is to serve as a reminder that your comings and goings or any other outside activity may be observed. We do not condone mischief or destroying the property of others and hopefully you don't either. There's always a price to pay for wrong doing, so be careful what you do, for someone may be watching.

Worker Memorial

Every year since 1989, Unions have taken the time to remember those who have given their lives or suffered work related injuries. The Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council will sponsor this service in the Erie City Council Chambers on 7th and State Steet at 6:00 pm on April 28th.



This day was chosen because it is the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. During this short service, a bell will be rung as names are read for each Erie County worker who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

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 members that may be mourning the loss of a loved one.

Elections Over Time to Focus

By Wayne Burnett

With the general elections now over, it's time to focus on the situations that we as a union may be faced with. There are many issues in the workplace and in order for us to move forward, we must be united on every front and not dwell on what could of, should of or would have been.

Our main focus at this time should be doing all we can to keep our members gainfully employed. This year has not produced what the company had foreseen as an up surge in the business. Some of their prospective customers have not fully committed to the orders that they once thought they wanted and some are even laying off their employees.

We have no control over what other businesses do, but we must be mindful that orders or lack of orders could affect our employment. Keep in mind that we have a lot of work that's farmed out and although some has been brought back, we continue to push for the return of any work to keep our members employed. Let's also not forget that the company has a new plant located in the Lone Star State of Texas that has already dipped into the work that we currently do.

We (the union) and they (the company) have very different views on the work that's being transferred to Texas. We want you, the members, to understand that Texas is a significant part of the company's future plans and it will affect this union. This is a reality article and we don't want anyone to think otherwise.

The E-Board has been meeting with this company for months now as a job preservation committee to see how we can preserve or create jobs. At times, the meetings seem to go well and then there are times when they don't. This is all a part of living in this world. There will be times that we agree and there will be times that we agree to disagree. No matter what happens, we want what's best for everyone and how we do that will take the efforts of all of us. There is no time to deal with trivial things that make us lose focus on the one thing that should matter the most, and that's JOBS.

There's a lot at stake here, and how we conduct or handle ourselves may determine how we come

through what could be some trying times. Make no mistake about it, there will be some things that we will have to deal with and the way they get handled will depend on you. Together is the way we feel, what about you?

Overhead Shop Crane Safety

Although shop cranes are useful, they can sometimes be "out of sight and out of mind" when it comes to safety. Workers need training on crane hazards and operation, and they should never forget the safety risks of moving material overhead. GE Transportations new policy is that anyone who touches a crane, whether it be a jib, pendant, radio, or cab crane needs to go through training. You are required to take a refresher course every three years. Only trained operators should use cranes. If you are uncertain of your training schedule see your Safety Coordinator.

Pre-use inspection should be done before operation on each shift. Controls should be clearly marked with their function. Whether operating a crane from an overhead bridge or the floor, the operator always needs a clear view of the crane pathway. Before moving loads, the crane operator should inspect the path of the crane for obstacles and people; the path must be clear before starting any crane movement. Have another person act as a "spotter" to warn others of the overhead load if traveling considerable distances.



Operators must know the load capacity of their shop crane; loads that exceed the limits of the crane should not be moved. Keep in mind the weakest link is your lowest rated lifting device. With a two ton lifting sling, a 50 ton crane can only lift 2 tons. Operators and other workers should be aware of the potential pinch points and stay clear at all times. Remember never work under a suspended load for any duration, and use tag lines when possible to avoid touching the load.

Safe workers know what's up when working with overhead cranes.

Union Request Decision Bargaining

Due to the April 9, 2013 letter delivered to the union of the company's intent to transfer both locomotive and off-highway vehicle work to other facilities or third-party vendors, we have requested decision bargaining.

This request falls under Article XXIII, Section 5(b) 2 of the UE-GE National Agreement. This is the process and we intend to follow that process. **We need your support, so now is the time to stand together.**

Legislative Action

Due to GE's recent announcement to transfer work to Texas your Legislative Action Committee is calling on all members to contact their legislators. Times such as these are when we must reach out and remind our representatives of their commitments to their constituents and our community. Please call and express your concerns.

Congressman Mike Kelly (202) 225-5406
Congressman Glenn Thompson (202) 225-5121
Senator Bob Casey (202) 224-6324
Senator Pat Toomey (202) 224-4254
State Senator Sean Wiley (814) 566-6617

Members at the Sub Regional Meeting

Sitting: Jason Trayer, Ron Domkowski, Ron's wife Cathie and Ricky Steele. Standing: Brad Dillimuth, President Roger Zaczyk and John Milliron.



25th Annual "Charities for Children, Inc." Adult Bowling Tournament

The 25th Annual Charities for Children, Inc. Adult Bowling Tournament, considered to be Erie's most prestigious adult bowling tournament, was held at Eastway Lanes on March 24, 2013. This year's event raised a total of \$29,167.00 (the highest ever) and truly shows that one can have fun while helping others. Many organizations will benefit from this event.

Along with the 44 tournament sponsors, there were also 66 other participating sponsors, (including Local 506) 31 volunteers and 405 paid bowlers. All bowlers donated their winnings to their favorite charity. This again shows the unselfishness of those who care about this community. **Rick Makowski,**

President of "Charities for Children" and who works in computer repair sends out thanks to all who took part in this very successful endeavor.

Although there were many, he wanted to recognize the UE 506 members (past and present) who played a part. They include **Valarie Pinetti** b-10, **Elana Sigrist** b-24, **Carl Daugherty** b-60, **Dan Biletnikoff** b-10, **Christine Peterson** b-18, and retirees **Ken Shaffer**, **Bill Warren**, and **Karen Urbanski**. **Mike Green**, a GE Cincinnati Bell employee also played a part. This event has raised a total of \$309,134.00 during its 25 year history. Once again, **Thank You, Thank You and Thank You.**

UE 506 Bowling Tournament Results



High Game/Men Game	(278)	Les Yokom	\$ 75.00
High Series/Men Series	(729)	Don Stanyard	\$ 75.00
High Game/Women Game	(234)	Nancy Morrison	\$ 75.00
High Series/Women Series	(590)	Paula Smith	\$ 75.00
1 st prize Kickazz	(3368)	Bldg. 12	\$500.00
2 nd prize X-men	(3340)	Bldg. PS	\$300.00
3 rd prize E L O	(3326)	Bldg. 2	\$250.00
4 th prize Circle K Boys	(3309)	Bldg. 5	\$220.00
5 th prize King Pin Five	(3250)	Bldg. 2	\$200.00
6 th prize Big Dummies	(3250)	Bldg. 12	\$180.00
7 th prize Thursday Five	(3239)	Bldg. 10	\$160.00
8 th prize 9 Hands Trying	(3219)	Bldg. 18c	\$140.00
9 th prize We Can Drink	(3217)	Bldg. 18t	\$130.00
10 th prize Old Geezers	(3210)	Bldg. PS	\$120.00

Prizes available at the Union Hall during business hours on Thursday, April 12, 2013.



Special thanks to all Sports Committee Members for the longest running UE 506 Sports Function!!!!

Help Still Available

Let's remember that if you are experiencing or having difficulty with someone in the workplace, we have people who are willing to listen and help you if you are willing to use them.

If you use our people, then maybe the situation can be rectified, but when the company gets involved, it becomes a crap shoot. We would only hope that whatever avenue you use, that you would consider the consequences of that decision.

If your problem is of a personal nature that may not be job related, then we suggest that you contact **Keith Eller**, the EAP Counselor at (875-4327). Call the union hall if you desire to take advantage of our help at (899-3108).

MAY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 LAC Meeting	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 R.A.G.E. Membership Meeting 618 Membership Meeting	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 E-Board Meeting	22	23 506 Membership Meetings	24 R.A.G.E. Board Meeting	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

AA Meeting Schedule

Where: Building 6, Room 150, Conference Room

When: Thursdays

1 st Shift	12:00 noon
2 nd Shift	7:30 pm
3 rd 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