

LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

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Friday, May 16, 2014

SPECIAL ELECTION – MAY 22, 2014 TRUSTEE (1), ALTERNATE TRUSTEE (1)

The following candidates have accepted nomination to run for the vacant Trustee (1) and Alternate Trustee (1) office. The election will be held during the May 22, 2014 Membership meetings. Their Statement of qualifications appear below.

TRUSTEE

Terry Gigax

LOCAL OFFICES HELD AND HOW LONG: Steward building 63.

MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE PAST 24 MONTHS:
Membership, 13 Steward, 13

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS: I have been active with the union since I transferred to transportation.

Signed: Terry Gigax

Dan Bojarski

LOCAL OFFICES HELD AND HOW LONG: Alternate Steward and Steward, building 6, 6 months each, Alternate Steward, building (s) 63 ux (1+ years), 12 rad less than 6 months, 10, 1 year.

MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE PAST 24 MONTHS:
Membership, 19 Steward, 19

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS: I would like the opportunity to further serve our union.

Signed: Dan Bojarski

Donna Shiamone

LOCAL OFFICES HELD AND HOW LONG: Alternate Steward, buildings 6 and 18, (6 months each).

MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE PAST 24 MONTHS:
Membership, 17 Steward, 17

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS: Keep track of all my own personal expenses, so there is nothing different doing the same for the union. Also, have no problem with giving reports to all audits and such.

Signed: Donna Shiamone

David Korynoski

LOCAL OFFICES HELD AND HOW LONG: Alternate Steward, about 6 months.

MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE PAST 24 MONTHS:
Membership, 12 Steward, 12

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS: I work in the crib, so I am very good with numbers. I also look forward to serving my fellow union brothers and sisters.

Signed: David Korynoski

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May Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- General Business
- Committee Updates
- Vote on Trustee and Alternate Trustee
- Vote on Constitutional Amendments

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, May 22, 2014 (All meetings)
7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)
12:30 p.m. (2nd Shift)
3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

Perception: What do you See?

By B.A. Wayne Burnett

During the weekly Job Preservation meeting, after the normal discussions on where the business is in terms of orders and other aspects of the business, some of the conversation revolved around changes (expected or unexpected) that the customers might want. We as workers cannot or do not control this aspect of the business, but do our best to do whatever it takes to get the job done when faced with such demands.

We believe that we have done that time and time again, plus made suggestions as to how something may have been done better, but our input has often fallen on deaf ears. We also believe that we have cooperated with this company in more ways than one. After all, we all have a stake in the success or failure in this company and it doesn't matter how long you've been here.

Randy Biletnikoff then took us on a trip down memory lane starting with the Egypt order in 2008 and some of the issues that followed. There were many in this workforce who were pulled off their regular jobs to help get this order out and hundreds of our members waited in line to get to the promised land and go where ever they were needed to help the company achieve their goal.

Unfortunately, when it didn't pay off the way the company wanted, and they shelled out much more money than they wanted to, we (local 506) were blamed for not getting the job done. We heard about the enormous amount of overtime, the rolling doubles, employees working seven days a week and so on. All this was done with the company's blessing, yet, it wasn't good enough.

Then we were told by former vice president of the global supply chain **Todd Wyman** that, "Our team did not deliver on our commitments to GE Corporate". Perception, what do you see? Todd went on to say that 2009 "will be extremely challenging due to great uncertainty and volatility in the market". Many of us know what happened in 2009 and some to this day, may still be filling the effects of what happened then.

Then in 2009 when the worldwide recession stepped in and brought almost everyone (businesses / countries) to their knees, the company felt that they needed significant changes in cost structures and flexibility to keep pace with what was happening.

Huh! I really had to pause for a moment and gather my thoughts on this. Some of our members moved to jobs, that many had no experience on, learned them on the fly, but we're not flexible?

Because of that non present setting move in 2008, the door to flexibility has been broken down and people are and have been moved to different areas all over this plant. Keep in mind, that there is contract language that covers some of these moves, but it has gone to a whole different level.

Then the company wanted to discuss other ways that could save them money during this near recession period. Even though the impact to them were not as catastrophic as other businesses, who had to close their doors or be bailed out by the government. They gave us their thoughts on what they saw as opportunities for us to help them be more cost competitive by wage freezes, lean rates, code consolidation and even temporary employees.

If you have been here for any length of time, then you know that most of their opportunities were achieved and still happening today. You also need to realize that there was no commitment from the company concerning employment levels and when asked, they couldn't commit or guarantee anything. So when the word perception was brought up, it was interesting that it seemed to be geared to how the company perceives this local from the GE Corporate level.

Do we cooperate or are we always the defiant ones? For the money that Transportation employees have made for the company over the years, I would like to think that we have cooperated, but then I realize that it's, what have you done for me lately? Even after making GE the most successful link in the business, it was short lived and the next question was, what can we do to top what was already done?

Remember, perception is a two way street and we have our opinions as well and what we perceive is simply that no matter what we do, it will never be enough. We also see how we were deceived about the Texas plant being an overflow plant and are constantly reminded of the gap between them and us as to cost of building loco's or anything else the company decides to produce there.

The company talks about future investment here in

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Erie or bringing in new work, but would it be worth doing because of what Corporate perceives us to be? We understand that times have changed and it's a different world today, but change is not one sided and many of us have the perception that we are the ones who are always asked to give. PERCEPTION? WHAT DO YOU SEE?

President's Report

By Scott Duke

As we entered into May there seemed to be a ray of sunshine for orders and some recalls from the street. Orders are at 507 for the year and according to the company, all the needed material has been ordered.

As of now, welders, painters, material movers and recently, a few 800017 assemblers have been recalled. This is a good thing, but we all know that volume dictates head count, which has always been the way GE operates. It's a roller coaster ride and no one know what tomorrow will bring, so hang on.

We are "still" waiting for the decision on TAA from the Department of Labor and why the decision is taking so long is beyond our control. With the amount of information that was given by the Local, I feel the decision should be cut and dry.

People have been asking about SERO's and that was a luxury we lost in 2007. Hopefully the company will offer a package to those who are eligible and let those who would like to, go, but without the proper benefits, it would be very unlikely that there would be any takers. We all know that insurance is a major player when it comes to retirement.

Although the number of people being recalled from the street it is yet to be determined, we're hopeful that all or a majority of members will be called back.

Help Available

If you are having workplace or personal problems, help is available and hopefully, you will reach out to those who may be able to help you. If your situation is up close and personal, then Contact Keith Eller, (EAP) counselor at 875-4327. Regardless of how you might feel about getting help, it just might save your job and if you have a family, what's more important?

C. P. Steward's Report



By Mike Hayes

On May 2nd we had our Step II, and forty one cases were heard. Some were payment issues, discipline, farm-out, rate guarantees, and working out of class and code. We also addressed the issue of trying to fill jobs where permanent employees are needed.

A lot of grievances were resolved in our favor and the grievance committee did a great job. We have submitted some Step III cases and are waiting on a date to discuss them. We received the decisions on two arbitration cases, and one was ruled in our favor, and one was not. They involved employees from buildings 2 and 6.

On May 6th we had stewards / members classes and a lot of good information was handed out as well as some good training tips. I want to thank all that attended.

Recalls from the street are still in progress and we get a weekly update list from the Company on this issue and hopefully, the list will continue to grow.

JUNE 2014						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 STEWARD / MEMBERS CLASSES 7:15 AM 1:00 PM 3:15PM	4 L.A.C. MEETING 3:15	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 R.A.G.E. MEMBERSHIP MEETING 618 MEMBERSHIP MEETING	12	13	14 
15 	16	17 E-BOARD MEETING	18	19 506 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 R.A.G.E. BOARD MEETING	28
29	30					