



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

Volume 64, Issue 6

© 21 Birosck Printing Co. Inc.

Friday, May 17, 2013

Nominate Convention Delegates

Nominations will be taken from the floor at this month's membership meetings to elect four rank-in-file members to attend this year's 73rd National Convention which will be held in Chicago, IL. The four (4) members receiving the most votes will attend and will be expected to participate in workshops and serve on committees.

It will run from Sunday, August 25 through Thursday the 29th. This year is very important because unions, (ours included) have been under attack all over the country. We must find a way to combat the situations we face today. Also, keep in mind, that if you have any resolutions or constitutional amendments that you would like to see adopted or considered at this year's convention that would benefit our national union, we must turn them in by July 24th to the National office.

Education Classes

The next steward and membership education classes will be held on June 4th, with the second shift class starting at 1:00 pm and the first (3:20 pm) and third (7:20 am) shift times will remain the same. These classes are important and open to any member and we encourage **stewards** and members to attend.

It's vitally important to gain the knowledge needed in order to be effective when dealing with work related issues. If you are serving as a representative of this local, it is even more important that you attend some of these classes so that you can stay abreast and pass on information that can be helpful and useful to all.

Trustee(s) / Alternate Trustee Election

Elections for trustee and alternate trustee will take place at this month's membership meetings. During the nomination period in February, there were two (4 year terms) for trustee and only one was filled. The term will run until 2017. Also, **Ron Dombkowski**, who was elected in 2011 as trustee, resigned for personal reasons, effective April 1st and the remainder of his elected term (until 2015) will also be filled.

The candidate receiving the most votes will serve the four year term, because it was a general election position, and the runner-up will serve the remainder of the vacated position. The alternate trustee position became open due to the fact that the previous alternate was elected as trustee during the general election. This position, originally slated for four years (elected in 2011) will run through 2015. Hopefully, those elected will fulfill these positions through its fruition.

May Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- Vote for Trustee and Alternate Trustee
- Nominate Convention Delegates
- Committee Reports

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, May 23, 2013 (All meetings)
7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)
1:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)
3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

Here We Are

By B.A. Wayne Burnett

This story is one that we all can relate to in some way, form or fashion. In 2009, this local faced one of the most devastating announcements in the history of our union. Although the reality of the situation was indeed real, (worldwide recession) even today, I often wonder how this could have happened. Millions of hard working Americans, who worked their entire lives to obtain the American dream, lost everything, including homes, savings, families, trust, and even more sadly, hope.

Many companies started filing for bankruptcy while others were just simply closing their doors because they just could no longer make it. Some even made the painful decision to merge with others, with hopes that they could somehow survive, but many who tried that method also came up on the losing end. Thousands of small businesses never even had a chance to survive and we probably will never know the true devastation that they endured.

It's always easy to blame others in a time of crisis and we, (AMERICA) pointed to everyone, everywhere in the world for something that we should have taken control of. Then, to the dismay of many, our government made the decision to stop the bleeding in our country and decided to bailout a drowning nation. We all know who the real benefactors of this bailout were and this left a bad taste in the mouths of millions of Americans.

Although millions of blue collar workers returned to work, they came back making a lot less than what they had previously made. Yea, I know there will be those who say, well at least they're working, but what about the culprits who caused this mess, who continued to live life styles that we could only imagine.

Now that you have a mental picture of what took place during that near 1929 moment, (great depression) sets the stage as to what's happening now. In the mist of that worldwide recession, GE continued to make money and never once mentioned that they were in jeopardy of going under. WE did hear rumblings that they were not making as much profit as they would have liked, and just think about how many other companies would have loved to be able to make that statement. Knowing that the company was still making money, they asked our employees, (in 2009) to sacrifice what was negotiated in 2007 even though they didn't need it, but just wanted it.

Now, here we are in 2013, almost two years after

we signed another negotiated contract which the company achieved their goals. Please don't misunderstand me, our members ratified that contract after being out of work so long that they had either lost, or were on the verge of losing what they had left. Now GE (Transportation) receives the most prestigious award within the corporation and it's not good enough.

In this decision bargaining process, we have asked GE what it is that they want and what it would take to save these jobs. A big part of that monster is being competitive and we all know that competitiveness comes with a price tag. We understand that you (members) are anxious about what's going on and as we continue to engage in this process, we will keep you updated. Remember folks, this issue was not initiated by this local, but we do have to deal with it and we need you to back us up.

President's Report

By Scott Duke

Hello everyone, since this is my first article, I'm going to be brief, so please bear with me. As we all know the company has announced 950 jobs could move to Texas starting in October. We are now engaged in Decision Bargaining. The company has asked the union to make a proposal to keep the 950 jobs in Erie plus make us more competitive.

As the Officers stated in the meetings, we just gave the company a contract in 2011. A year and a half later they want more. (The Company stated in a letter that now that contract is ratified we are moving forward with this competitive contract & looking forward to a brighter and busier future.) Well folks they are at it again.

Not once has this Company ever stated that the business was or in the red. As a matter of fact, in 2009 when the bottom fell out & 1400 members were laid off, the company was still in the green making profits. So here we are again trying to be competitive.

The Company states that Texas is 20% more efficient than Erie. Well, to end this article on a positive note, if Texas had to build a locomotive from start to finish how efficient do you think they would be? So thanks to the skilled Erie workforce, who are the 99% that keep this company and this country rolling. Be proud.

Thanks to All

UE Local 506 would like to thank the community and all the many people who showed up at the April 16th rally in support to the recent announcement by GE to transfer work to Texas and the possibility of eliminating 950 union jobs, as well as 100 management jobs. With the community taking the initiative to hold a pre-rally after hearing that announcement speaks volume as to how they feel.

This community really understands the importance and value of these jobs. We applaud their support and appreciate it very much. We also send thanks to the many unions from all over the country who either participated in the rally or sent letters of support in protest to this announcement. While the outcome is yet to be determined, we will do everything within our power to ward off or diminish the outcome of this unwarranted announcement by GE.

We are determined to do what is best for our members and will need the support of all involved. You, as members, already know that this workforce, (Transportation) has been an integral part of the success of GE and it was proven when Lorenzo Simonelli hoisted up the "Business of the Year" award trophy earlier this year. That was soon followed by a very successful first quarter report where profits, again, took center stage.

The announcement GE made would give the impression to someone who didn't know better that GE just went bankrupt, but to those of us who know the truth, this message sent shock waves and anger throughout the community and our members. We constantly hear about the need to be more productive and

efficient to be able to compete and remain competitive in light of lower order and production volume. We're mystified as to why less production volume for all companies would have to do with being competitive, (other than the obvious) when we build and produce the best products right here.



Once again, the cat burglar or Caterpillar seems to be the talk of the moment and how they are our major competitor, but we view Texas more dangerous than Caterpillar. As Lorenzo stated in his May 1 Business Announcement that, "These measures are intended to help GE Transportation remain competitive in light of lower order and production volume within the locomotive and mining business due factors such as decreased coal demand". How is the possibility of losing over a thousand family sustaining jobs in the tri-state area and other communities help Transportation in Erie, Pa?



We feel this plant wasn't built for a supposed mega-cycle and it's ironic that this plant was built in a right to work state.

This picture is becoming very clear and the intentions aren't in the best interest of this union or for this community. We signed a contract in 2011 and all we ever ask of GE, is to provide us with the necessities to do our jobs to make them money, (and you definitely did that) while providing a decent living for our families, in the safest way possible.



It's shameful that the company now wants to get something more than what they agreed to in 2011 at the expense of our members by adding an inside competitor (Texas) to the present competition. Do you feel like these two companies, GE and Caterpillar are in this together?

Healthcare Benefits

Employees with WageWorks (HRA) or (FSA) will be notified of an **Offset Process** if you have unverified debit card transactions that are > = 90 days old. This Offset Process adjusts transactions where documentation subject to IRS Regulations is required but was not provided. You will be notified by e-mail or paper mail if you fall into this category. If you have questions concerning this matter, you can contact WageWorks directly at 1-888-303-3006.

Yard Signs

Yard signs are available at the UE Hall
\$3.00 each / 2 for \$5.00

KEEP IT MADE IN ERIE



PAID FOR BY THE UE LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

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).

JUNE 2013

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

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