



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

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Convention 2013

The 73rd National Convention held in Chicago had no real surprises and those who attended witnessed and heard the struggles that are taking place all over the country. Unions are under attack and the unorganized workers in America have it worse now than ever. This is not the best of times for working class people, for Corporate America as well as the private sector has waged an all out attack on the people who make this country what it is today.

While profits continue to soar for big business, they are ever shrinking for the working class. Companies are continuing to move jobs to right to work states, where laws prohibit workers the right to organize and form unions. Southern politicians are teaming up with big corporations and offering incentives to bring work to their states.

Ordinarily, this would be a good thing, but once you realize what the real motive is, "the right to work for less", tells the real story. While the price of consumer goods continue to rise, dealing with flawed educational systems, unaffordable medical care, (if there's any coverage at all) and low wages, makes one wonder how people can even exist.

Unfortunately, according to the company, we are experiencing a downturn here at Transportation, and while we understand ups and downs in orders, the fact remains that GE has built a plant in a right to work state. Get the picture! Our political leaders, although they seemed overly concerned, have expressed their opinions, but have offered very little help or solutions otherwise. Hopefully, you will remember them when election time rolls around.

Meanwhile, the top three national officers, **Bruce Klipple**, **Bob Kingsley**, and **Andrew Dinkelaker** were re-elected to a two year term. A new per capita system was also passed and it must be voted on by the membership of each UE local. There were many resolutions that were passed and policies were set

for the next two years. Each delegate participated in various workshops and should share what they learned from attending.

Despite these situations and many others as well, UE has taken the stand to "Resist, Revive, and Resurge". That was the theme of this year's convention and it's a necessity if we are to fight back against these mega corporations.

Golfing Success

Once again, the UE Local 506 Sports Committee is to be commended for putting on another successful golf outing that was held on August 18 at Riverside Golf Course. This 6th Annual Welcome Home "Fore" Veterans Golf Tournament raised a total of \$8,258.00 with over 35 Veterans Service Organizations and community businesses and other organizations donating to this event.

The proceeds went to helping our returning Veterans transition back to civilian life. Many thanks go out to all who participated and to all who worked behind the scenes to make this event a success. We would like to thank all the veterans for their service to protect this country and especially to those who paid the alternate price. THANK YOU!

September Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- General Business Matters
- Committee Reports
- Vote on new Per Capita System

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS & TIMES ARE:

Thursday, September 19, 2013 (All meetings)
7:20 a.m. (3rd Shift)
1:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)
3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

C. P. Steward's Report

By Mike Hayes

Our Step III meeting was held on September 5, 2013 and two discharge cases will be going to arbitration. We discussed a transfer of work case out of Building 5, and it was sent back to Step 2 because we believe we can do platforms faster and cheaper here than in Texas. Also, a SPV tickets case out of Building 18, was sent back for more discussion. Building 18-C issues with **Tia Pormorski** was once again addressed at Step 3. We had a warning and a week off overturned and settled a job posting issue where seniority prevailed.

November 14, at 10:00 AM. is the date of our next arbitration case and it involves discharge and back pay. The location has not been determined, but an arbitrator has been selected. The next step II meeting will be announced at the next membership meeting. The officers will have a discussion with the company about their updated work rules and policies.

The next steward classes will take place after the steward elections in November.

President's Report

By Scott Duke

As everyone is aware, the Company handed the Officers a W.A.R.N. Act Notice on September 4, 2013. I was hoping that orders would take the place of this, but unfortunately they did not. The Company announced 500 jobs would be permanently affected.

We all know what happened in 2009 when 1430 employees were permanently let go & then orders picked up and people were called back, but to different jobs and areas. It was a huge mess to say the least, and people had to be retrained in other jobs instead of putting qualified people back to the jobs they held with minimal training.

Quality went down terribly & the company lost out on making this business a lot of money because of the way it was handled. Bumping was a disaster and hopefully the company will put more thought into how they put 500 employees out the door and look at all avenues before pulling the rug out. I'm still very hopeful for orders to solidify before November 4th.

The work rules will go into place on October 7th of this year. I will go over them at the next membership meeting. Also January 1, 2014 the new attendance policy goes into effect and I will cover that at the meeting as well.

As we move forward, if areas are out of parts, get a hold of your PTA or BL and let your steward know & document this. Parts will always be an issue until they resolve it. In the mean time we will lose customers if the management team does not resolve this issue immediately!

Our job is to build a locomotive and their job is to supply the parts to us to build a quality locomotive. We live up to our end and it's time for them to do the same. As I said before and will say again: **ERIE PA. BUILDS THE BEST!** GE needs to remember to forget the rest. Keep up the good work!

Reminders

- Any work related injury must be reported to your supervisor, and if serious, you must treat with one of the company's workers comp doctors for the first ninety (90) days. Any delay in reporting an injury could jeopardize your benefits.
- If you need intervention concerning worker on worker conflicts, please call the hall so that we can get our unity committee involved. We should always look out for each other instead of turning to the company to intervene. Their way could be drastic.
- If you are having personal problems and need assistance, please contact **Keith Eller**, (EAP) counselor at 875-4327. He has been very instrumental in a variety of areas.
- Have questions about insurance or other health related benefits, contact **Leo Grzegorzewski** at 875-5213 (outside the plant) or 348-5213 (inside the plant) or call the union hall. We will do our best to help or point you in the right direction.
- During the present situation that we are facing, it is important to realize that there will be those who will want to cause confusion and you should

consider who they are and the motive (s) behind their actions.

- Mirror Check: Always judge what you do to someone by what you see when you look into your mirror. If you don't like yourself, you probably won't like anyone else. Life is too short and you never know what the next moment will be.

Truth or Deception

By B.A. Wayne Burnett

You all heard the announcement the company made on September 4th, that 500 of our members will lose their jobs starting in November. This news, although devastating, was one that was expected and according to the company, this is because of a downturn in the business. Even if this is true, the fact that GE decided to build a plant in Texas plays a major part in what is happening here.

The company deceived our members and this community into believing that Texas would be an overflow plant and there would be plenty of work for both plants. Amazingly, now we know the real motive behind this new plant and the truth, which many of you already know has come to the surface. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out why that plant was built in Texas and for those who don't know, it's about money, the destruction of union labor and destroying the middle class.

Don't get me wrong, we understand that any company is in business to make money and I don't believe that anyone would disagree with that, but how much is enough? The answer is simple, it's never enough. Building the plant in the "right to work" state of Texas doesn't shave one penny from what the company sells their locomotives for. What it does, is add to their bottom line because the workers in Texas make much less. This, my friends is the reality of what the corporate world is all about. And by the way, it all boiled down to one word, (competitive).

That's the buzz word that all corporations use these days when they sell the same products or services and it doesn't matter to them, that what you earn, was agreed to by them and us. Now they want it back because it will make us (company) more competitive, which is what they claimed was accomplished when the national contract agreement was signed in 2011. And making the company over a billion dollars in profits last year, just wasn't enough.

It's interesting that for a few years now, we didn't hear a lot about competition in the train business and that's because GE had most of it under its wing. GE had the biggest share of the market because we built the best product and we still are the best at what we do. Now, because other players like Caterpillar (formerly EMD) are back in the game, it's all about being competitive. Has anyone paid attention as to what these CEO's make these days? How

much have they given back to make the company more competitive?

Why is it always the workers who produce the products, the ones the company wants to give back. How much money has the company saved with the health insurance we presently have? Do we complain about it? "ABSOLUTELY", but it's something we agreed to and they have no intention to change it, other than the fact that it will be going up next year. We agreed and signed a contract in 2011 and although it wasn't totally what we wanted, we knew our members who were laid off at that time had suffered enough and needed to get back to work. Now, for the third time since 2009, (WARN NOTICE) we are about to see the suffering return and not only for our members, but this community and other communities as well.

No, we didn't come to an agreement during decision bargaining earlier this year and one of the main reasons is because we had already had an agreement with the company and all we asked them to do was honor it. And truly speaking, if we would have given them anything at all, it would not have changed a thing. This company has always done what it wanted to do and contrary to the statement that we could have saved 400 jobs, was only an illusion. If the company really cared about this community, as they say they do, then they would have expanded and use the vacant land they already have in the plant and there would have been no reason to build in Texas.

What is our reward for making "Transportation" number one? Lay-offs! This should be a reminder to all of us that we are only a number and when your number is called, (in this case) it's to let you know that you are no longer a part of the team. We will do everything in our power to make sure that those who are affected will receive everything that they are entitled and make sure the company follows through with their obligations. Meanwhile, let's continue to do what we are paid to do and show the company that we honor our commitments and most of all, the agreement we signed.

Consultations (Workers Comp Attorneys)

If you have a worker's comp case that you are presently involved in and need some expert advice, we suggest you contact the Law Firm of Yablonski, Costello & Leckie. They have been assisting this local for many years now and will be more than willing to meet with you and discuss your situation. They can be reached at 724-225-9130, Toll Free (800)-964-2667 or Fax at 724-225-9203.

Safety Committee Report

It's that time again! School is back in session and therefore school buses, teen drivers, crossing guards, and school kids are back on the road ways. This means it is time to slow down and be more alert near schools, crosswalks, and in neighborhoods. Allowing more time for your journey is a good habit to get into especially with summer ending and fall and winter just around the corner. Below are some important safety tips.

- Children are often distracted and may not notice an oncoming vehicle. Be prepared to stop for children walking, riding their bikes, or getting on/off buses. They are often excited and dash across the street without thinking things through.
- Be patient with other drivers. There are many young drivers on the road that aren't as experienced as you.
- Adhere to all posted traffic signs. When a bus has its red lights flashing, you must stop unless on a divided roadway.
- Soon the weather will begin to change as the days grow shorter when rain, snow, or fog can make it more difficult to see. Keep your headlights on and be aware of limitations in your visibility and slow down. Rain, wet leaves and ice can make the roads slippery. It only takes a second to change yours or someone else's future.
- Make sure your vehicle is PROPERLY cleared of snow and defrosted before attempting to drive.

Did you know that "distracted driving" is becoming the new "DUI"? Statistics are showing that more accidents and deaths are happening due to distractions than people drunk behind the wheel. Many of us take for granted that driving a motor vehicle on a busy roadway is one of the most dangerous things we do each day. What can you do to save lives?

- Put down the phone or pull over to talk, text, or access information from your phone.
- Don't eat while driving. Keep your eyes on the road, not the fries at the bottom of the bag.
- Personal grooming should be done at home, not in a moving vehicle.
- Turn the radio down so you can hear motorcycles, horns, sirens, rail crossings etc.
- Leave yourself enough time to get to your destination early. Arrive Alive!
- Check both ways TWICE before darting into intersections.
- Remember, vehicles making left hand turns are involved in most motorcycle accidents.

OCTOBER 2013						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 L.A.C. MEETING	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 R.A.G.E. MEMBERSHIP MEETING 618 MEMBERSHIP MEETING	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day 	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 E-BOARD MEETING	23	24 506 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	25 R.A.G.E. BOARD MEETING	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween 		

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