LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

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Friday, March 17, 2017

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COBRA/HCTC

Over the past couple of months we have worked with members who are engaged in training through TAA who have decided to purchase COBRA and apply for the HCTC. If you are TAA qualified, you can apply for a Health Coverage Tax Credit HCTC @ www.irs.gov. Form 13441-A, Monthly Registration, must be submitted to receive the Credit. The registration form requires you to provide the following supporting documents:

❖ A copy of your health insurance bill dated within the last 60 days that includes:

- o Your Name
- o Monthly premium amount
- o Dates of coverage Health Plan
- o Administrator name and phone number
- o Health plan identification numbers
- o Address for mailing your payments

Your group ID # is 479178-035-00001
Member ID# is the ID # above your name on your Aetna insurance card

If applicable, your bill must show the following:

- o Dollar amount for family members who are not qualified for the HCTC
- o Separate dollar amount for benefits that the HCTC does not cover (Such as separate dental or vision plans)

If you choose to enroll in COBRA coverage and apply for the HCTC, all of the required supporting documentation is on the COBRA invoice. If you need a breakdown of dependent information you can obtain it from the COBRA Election Notice. If you have questions on locating the documentation on your COBRA invoice you can contact Conexis at 1-866-924-6931.

Members should have received a COBRA package at the time of the layoff. Once you make your elections, your invoice will go out that week, unless your Benefits Termination Date is still in the future. For example, if you elect COBRA coverage today and your Benefits Termination Date is 6/1/17, then the invoice will not go out until May (around the 8th/10th of the month) with the June invoices.

Convention Delegates Elections

Elections to fill (4) rank and file delegate's seats to the 75th UE National Convention will be conducted during the March 23, 2017 membership meetings. The Candidates will be listed on the ballot in the following order:

Candidates	*Building*	*Candidates*	*Building*
Brian Arneman	60	Mitchell Jones	6
Mike Beebe	20	Mike Milligan	24
Don Brown	6	Dale Sonney	2
Chris Casey	6		

✓ Members in good standing who are elected as delegates understand and agree to participate in workshops and on committees at the Convention as required of all UE 506 delegates.

✓ Members shall not be eligible to serve consecutive terms as additional rank and file delegates to the National Convention unless there are not enough eligible members to fill the four (4) additional rank and file positions.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will be the site of this year's National Convention. It will convene on Sunday, August 27, 2017 and will conclude on Thursday, August 31, 2017. The four successful candidates, the officers and seven board members will participate in workshops and be assigned to specific committees where they will help develop UE policies and programs for the next two years.

Special Guest James Young

See article on page 2

March Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- **Special Guest James Young**
- **Convention Delegates Election**
  2nd & 1st shift only
- **Financial Report**
- **Officers Report**
- **Reduction in Work Force Update**
- **Committee Reports and General Business**

Membership Meetings & Times
Thursday, March 23, 2017
(All meetings)
7:20 a.m. **(Officers reports only)**
12:30 p.m. (2nd Shift)
3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)
No Food Will Be Served At Meetings

Chief Plant Steward's Report

By Leo Grzegorzewski

We had a Step three grievance meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn on February 21. There were 16 cases heard at that meeting. Six of the cases were closed or settled. Of these cases we had one warning removed, one payment issue resolved, borrowed employees to bldg. 5 will be returned to their jobs on March 13th and one employee was able to go out on a Lack of Work Suitable. Six cases were put on hold. One of the hold cases was the International EVO Locomotive grievance.

This grievance was generated from the Transfer of work negotiations of 2016. During the 2016 negotiations the company introduced the term International EVO Locomotive. This was the first time the union heard that term. We questioned the company immediately, because we had no reference to this term. The company's response was: If GE mounts an EVO engine on an International Locomotive it is now considered an International EVO Locomotive and was part of the Transfer of Work negotiations of 2013. Immediately we made our position very clear, International EVO was never discussed and not included in the 2013 Transfer of Work negotiations. We requested information on this subject in September and again on November 15th, 2016. U.E. Local 506 has filed two grievances on this matter. The first grievance was for the term International EVO Locomotive and the second was for not answering the requested information dated November 15th, 2016 in a timely manner.

We argued five termination cases and ended up with docket numbers on four of them. One termination case is on hold pending further investigation and review. The company has hired a new UR manager, named Alex Asiago. Mr. Asiago has been with GE since 2015, he previously worked for Sikorski Aircraft. The officers met Mr. Asiago on March 13th. He will be introduced to the Executive Board at our next board meeting on Tuesday, March 21st. We look forward to working with Mr. Asiago and getting the grievance program back on track. Our next Members Involvement and Education meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28th. The meeting times are 7:30am, 1:00pm and 3:30pm. The topic is Settling Conflict between Members.

Saint Vincent Urgent Care

Over the past month we have received multiple phone calls concerning Saint Vincent Urgent Care Centers. Members reported that they were being denied care if they refused to sign a payment release form. The form made them responsible for payment if Aetna refused to cover their visit. The Saint Vincents employees informed our members that it was necessary because Aetna did not cover their facilities and they were not being paid for prior visits.

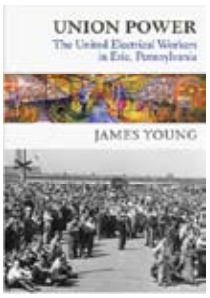
After contacting the company for an explanation, they confirmed that AHN/Saint Vincent's Urgent Cares are participating with Aetna insurance plans. Saint Vincent will collect a co-payment at the time of service and submit claims to Aetna. Deductibles and co-insurance will be billed according to the plan. Saint Vincent Urgent Care sites (Buffalo Road and West Ridge Road) are credentialed as primary care offices, not urgent care centers. Aetna will be correctly billing as primary care offices, which should address any issues that Members have encountered.

Thanks to Mark Kresse for his assistance on this matter.

If you or a family member encounters issues with your insurance you can call the Union hall at 899-3108. You can also contact Tom Smith at 875-6873 or Mark Kresse at 875-6620.

JAMES YOUNG

During the March Membership meetings we will be honored to welcome special guest James Young. Jim will be joining us to speak about his book ***Union Power*** *The United Electrical Workers in Erie, Pennsylvania*, that was published February of this year.



Jim is a Professor of History Emeritus at Edinboro University, Pennsylvania. He has been a union member all of his life, and a worker in several unions to include SEIU and USW. Jim was awarded the position of UE Local 506 Honorary Steward for his work on the Locals 50 year anniversary. He is a contributing author to *Fear Itself: Enemies Real and Imagined in American Culture* and *Advocates and Activists, 1919-1941: Men and Women Who Shaped the Period Between the Wars*.

Please join us for this opportunity to thank Jim for his commitment to telling the story of ***Union Power*** *The United Electrical Workers in Erie, Pennsylvania.*

"That the United Electrical Workers Union was still alive at the end of the 1950s, a decade of red-baiting, raids, and repression against the labor left, has been considered a minor miracle. In this wonderfully detailed account of human courage and solidarity, based on dozens of interviews with participants, Jim Young uncovers the secret behind that miracle. A must-read for labor activists and students of labor history."

—Alan Hart, Managing Editor, *UE News*, former Erie GE worker

Author JAMES YOUNG will discuss his book *Union Power* – the history of two Erie labor unions that helped to save us from ourselves and to gain decent living standards for area working people:

Friday. March 24, 6:00-7:30 pm*
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
5090 Peach Street, Erie

*Copies of the book *Union Power: United Electrical Workers in Erie, Pennsylvania* will be available at B & N before and after the author's visit.

Supportive Services

Every person and family will experience problems and difficulties in this life. The good news is that there are resources and help available. If you or someone you know doesn't have insurance and are in need of support or counseling don't hesitate to make use of the following community programs:

Catholic Charities
329 W. 10th Street
824-1250

Crisis Services
133 W. 26th Street
456-2014

Family Services
5100 Peach Street
866-4500

Glenbeigh Center of Erie
(drug and alcohol)
4906 Richmond Street
864-4226

Safe Harbor Behavioral Health
1330 W. 26th Street
459-9300

Stairways Behavioral Health
138 E. 26th Street
453-5806

United Way
420 W. 6th Street
456-2937
(Referral Services)

United Way
Labor Liaison, Ron Oliver
Cell Phone (814)-860-1793

EAP
off site services in the community
call toll free 866-272-6007

All members facing challenges that they feel are overwhelming can contact the Union hall at 814-899-3108. If you are uncomfortable reaching out you can always talk with a Steward, friend or someone at church. Just please know that we are in this together. Any challenges we face today is not worth our tomorrow!

President's Report

By Scott Slawson

Since the beginning of the year there has not been a lot of good to report on in Transportation. Volumes are down, layoffs continue throughout the business, and many of our brothers and sisters are still laid off. New locomotive orders are not coming in and due to the hold on Egypt we are left with a big hole in the fourth quarter that has yet to be filled. To add to this, the company was looking to move some of the work from 18-2 panel room that was transferred with the domestic EVO work in 2013. This work had already been transferred once before and due to poor quality came back to us. After a brief discussion with the plant manager, our productivity team is being given the opportunity to try and preserve that work here.

For the first time in a long time we are finally getting some good news. Last week in a meeting with the company, we were informed that propulsion will be adding approximately 40 people to help with the increase in OHV and drill motor volume. They are also looking at the possibility of some mod work and additional locomotives to be added to our schedule. While this doesn't fill in the entire gap in the 4th quarter it is a step in the right direction.

The recent TPG audit went fairly well. We only have a few minor audit findings to close and 1 major one. The TPG standards require welders and inspectors to pass an eye examination. They are required to have 20/30 (corrected) vision in at least one eye. This process needs to be finished by the end of March and will give us the opportunity to bid on a substantial order of locomotives.

Currently, we are seeing the overtime rates coming down, people are being moved to where they belong, and areas are managing with temporary lack of works. The business has stated they are planning to continue managing ebb and flow of work in areas with TLOW's for the remainder of the year. The company has also agreed to pay those that have been hired and not moved to their new jobs after the expired time period. If you have not been moved to your new job and are not being paid the rate of your new job please see your Chief and make sure your name is on the list.

Recently the new administration started releasing their version of National Healthcare stating that ACA (Obamacare) was too costly and not friendly to small business owners. Under the ACA, 20 million people that previously had no health insurance were able to sign up. It also forced insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions and other coverages they otherwise put a premium on. Under the new healthcare plan being proposed it is estimated that 26 million more people will be uninsured by the year 2026. Costs for elderly earning less than 75,000 per year will go up by 750%, people with preexisting conditions will be forced to pay much higher premiums for coverage, and large businesses will no longer be required to offer health insurance to their employees. In basic terms, as the plan has been rolled out, it will benefit the wealthy and the healthy young.

The Officers and Executive Board would like to wish everyone and their families a safe and Happy Easter.

SHUTDOWN

On March 15, 2017 the Company sent a letter giving formal notification under Article VIII of the National Agreement of the scheduled primary shutdown period for 2017. Fiscal weeks 27, 51 and 52 are the weeks that the Company has designated as Shutdown.

UE Local 506 Retiree's

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following is the most recent list of members who have retired. The Local would like to wish the best of luck in retirement. Thank you for your service, you will be greatly missed.

October 2016 Retirees

Name	*Building*
Royce Sykes	6
Gary Didion	PS
Joseph Burick	7
Stanley R. Aites	12
Cary M. Flipkowski	18C
Patrick T. Fioravanti	PS
Deborah C. Wentz	5

November 2016 Retirees

Bryan L. Allen	PS
Craig R. Abbate	PS
Debra E. Hammer	12
William J. Mikolajewski	PS
William H. Jackson	7
Edward B. Abramoski	12

January 2017 Retirees

Darlene J. Bayle	10
Rosie L. Coleman	18C
Gary E. Czerwinski	PS
John M. Duchinowski	63
Raymond G. Gregory	6
David A. King	10
Robert S. Pawlowski	18C
Patricia A. Piatkowskl	PS
Donald R. Richardson	PS

Name	*Building*
Dale R. Soder	PS
Richard B. Tolley	2
Thierry Vanderstraeten	7
Michael D. Wetmore	6

January 2017 Retirees

John E. Allen	7
William J. Anderson	18C
Barry M. Baily	18C
Robert W. Danylko	10
Michael K. DeMay	63
Alfred G. Fahlen	6
Daniel A. Hemenger	12
Leroy L. Kehm	5L
Daniel Kelley	10
Gary P. Marino	26
Robert L. McGahan	18C
Fred S. Miller	10
Fred A. Pacansky	10
Richard S. Pelinsky	7
Patricia A. Piatkowski	PS
Stanley Pilinski	63
Edith M. Russell	6
Lewis C. Shaffer	5
Jon L. Steffey	6
Gerald E. Wegelin	6

APRIL 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 UE 506 BOWLING TOURNAMENT
2	3	4	5 618 MEMBERSHIP MEETING; RAGE MEMBERSHIP MEETING	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Good Friday	15
16 Easter Sunday	17	18 Tax Day; 506 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	19	20 506 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	21 REGIONAL E-BOARD MEETING	22 EASTERN REGION MEETING
23	24	25	26	27	28 RAGE BOARD MEETING; Workers Memorial Day	29
30						

Important Medical Plan Numbers and Web sites

WageWorks
(HRA/FSA/DCFSA/LPFSA)

Wageworks.com/ge
1-888-303-3006
GE Benefits Center
OneHR.ge.com
1-800-252-5259
Dental Care
Metlife.com/dental
GE Dental Benefits Claim Center
1-888-529-8474
Vision Care
davisvision.com
GE Vision Care Benefits Center
1-800-433-9375
Disability Benefits Center
1-800-392-0789

HAVING A BENEFITS ISSUE?
Call Mark Kresse at 875-6620
Or Tom Smith at 875-6873

HAVING A PERSONAL PROBLEM?
Call Keith Eller at 875-4EAP (Ext. 4327)

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

Concerned about your sobriety? Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) may be the answer… Did you know that GET offers onsite meetings?

When: Every Thursday
3:00am (3rd shift)
12:00 noon (1st shift)
7:30pm (2nd shift)

Where: Building 6, Rm. 150, Conference Room

ONE DAY AT A TIME

**AA IS NOT SOMETHING YOU JOIN, IT'S A WAY OF LIFE*

**SOBRIETY IS A JOURNEY … NOT A DESTINATION*

RESULTS OF VAMC BOWLING TOURNAMENT - 2017

Number of Bowlers	212	Monetary sponsors (7 NEW SPONSORS)	40
TOURNAMENT WINNERS		Total Auction Items (25 chances for $5)	89
Men's High Game - John Kolbas	267	Total High Auction Items ($2 ea. 3 for $5)	5
Men's High Series - Desmond Drake	754	Wooden Eagle Carving ($2 ea. 3 for $5)	1
Women's High Game - Casey Brewer	192	Total # of Monetary & Item Sponsors	135
Women's High Series - Debbie Sickles	532	Winner Wooden Eagle - Dale Mitchell	
Winner of Flag - Peggy Lucas			
BREAKDOWN OF DONATIONS	AMOUNT	BREAKDOWN DAY OF TOURNAMENT	
Monetary (sponsors) donations	$ 14,512.00	Auction table proceeds	$ 1,315.00
Auction table proceeds	$ 1,315.00	Auction high end proceeds	$ 427.00
Auction high end proceeds	$ 427.00	1st 50/50 proceeds winner Jerry Ingali	$ 589.00
50/50 proceeds	$ 1,771.00	2nd 50/50 proceeds winner Bill Neal	$ 596.00
Wooden Eagle proceeds	$ 290.00	3rd 50/50 proceed winner - Kathy Shelly	$ 586.00
Proceeds from T-shirt sales	$ 155.00	Wooden Eagle proceeds	$ 290.00
		Proceeds from T-shirt sales	$ 155.00
Total	**$ 18,470.00**	**GRAND TOTAL DAY OF TOURNAMENT**	**$ 3,958.00**

CUMULATIVE TOTALS FOR VAMC BOWLING TOURNAMENT FOR 2003-2017

YEAR	FUND	# OF BOWLERS	# OF MONETARY SPONSORS	SPONSOR PROCEEDS	AUCTION PROCEEDS	50-50 PROCEEDS	TOTAL
2003	CCTV	64	37	$ 3,965.00		$ 651.00	$ 4,616.00
2004	Recreation Therapy	67	28	$ 4,380.00	$ 1,276.40	$ 344.50	$ 6,000.90
2005	Transportation	89	35	$ 7,675.00	$ 1,041.00	$ 485.50	$ 9,201.50
2006	Homeless	136	32	$ 2,985.56	$ 1,399.00	$ 506.00	$ 4,890.56
2007	Library Fund	103	40	$ 3,827.00	$ 642.00	$ 400.00	$ 4,869.00
2008	Recreation Therapy	139	31	$ 3,635.00	$ 787.00	$ 542.00	$ 4,964.00
2009	National Games	120	40	$ 4,815.00	$ 1,400.00	$ 645.00	$ 6,860.00
2010	Women Veterans	148	39	$ 5,212.00	$ 1,279.00	$ 763.00	$ 7,254.00
2011	National Games	149	40	$ 7,050.00	$ 1,921.00	$ 696.00	$ 9,667.00
2012	Vet Center	160	32	$ 5,113.00	$ 1,450.00	$ 1,044.00	$ 7,607.00
2013	Women Veterans	200	41	$ 10,564.28	$ 2,084.00	$ 1,137.00	$ 13,785.28
2014	Homeless Veterans	208	44	$ 15,700.00	$ 2,398.20	$ 1,105.00	$ 19,203.20
2015	Vet Center	184	42	$ 13,315.00	$ 1,441.00	$ 2,076.00	$ 16,832.00
2016	Homeless/National Games	194	45	$ 16,490.00	$ 2,230.00	$ 1,280.00	$ 20,000.00
2017	Vets Treatment Court	212	40	$ 14,512.00	$ 2,187.00	$ 1,771.00	$ 18,470.00
	GRAND TOTALS	2173	566	**$ 119,238.84**	**$ 21,535.60**	**$ 13,446.00**	**$ 154,220.44**

AUCTION PROCEEDS INCLUDES: sales of t-shirts, wooden carving, high and low end auctions

UE LOCAL 506 CUMULATIVE TOTALS FOR ALL FUNDRAISERS FOR THE VA MEDICAL CENTER

YEAR(S)	EVENT	TOTAL
1996-2006	5K RUN/WALKS	$ 63,942.00
2003-2017	BOWLING TOURNAMENTS	$ 154,058.44
2008-2016	GOLF TOURNAMENTS	$ 62,266.50
	GRAND TOTALS	**$ 280,266.94**

UE 506 BOWLING TOURNAMENT

EASTWAY LANES

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017 • 11:00 A.M.

SPORTS COMMITTEE
LOCAL 506
UE

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Each event shall consist of three (3) games bowled on one (1) pair of lanes assigned by the Tournament Directors.
2. Entrants shall use their highest book average for the 2015-2016 Season. If the bowler's current average of 21 games is 10 pins or higher, the current average is used.
3. If no 2015-2016 average, the bowler's highest current year average with a minimum of 21 games will be used.
4. Entrants who do not bowl in a league, but bowled in last year's tournament shall use that average.
5. If entrant has none of the above, then they use:

   Men – 170 **Women – 130**
6. Handicaps will be 80% of a 210 scratch.
7. Teams may consist of both men and women.
8. No multiple awards (Example) if one wins high game they cannot win high series.
9. All UE members in good standing, past or present are eligible to bowl.
10. All prize money is based on a full 40-team complement.
11. One in four entrants will cash. 100% of prize money will be awarded.
12. The decisions by the tournament directors are final.
13. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m., and bowling starts at 11:00a.m. sharp.
14. This is a non-sanctioned tournament.
15. **There are a limited number lanes, first come first served!**

Team Name: _____

Captain's name & home phone: _____

Building _____ **Shift** _____ **Shop Extention** _____

Line-up:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Entries close Friday, March 31, 2017 – Make checks payable UE 506 Sports Committee

Prizes

1st.....	$ 500.00	6th.....	$ 180.00
2nd	300.00	7th.....	160.00
3rd	250.00	8th.....	140.00
4th	220.00	9th.....	130.00
5th	200.00	10th.....	120.00

$75.00 high game – actual men
$75.00 high series – actual men
$75.00 high game – actual women
$75.00 high series – actual women

Entry Fee:
$100.00
Per Team