



LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

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3923 Main Street, Erie, PA 16511
http://www.uelocal506.com

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Phone: (814) 899-3108
Fax (814) 899-0666

- SPECIAL ELECTION- Election Notice – Local 506 Alternate Trustee

Local 506 Alternate Trustees Mike Rudzinski was recently elected as the Sergeant At Arms, therefore a special election will be held during the January 19, 2017 membership meetings to fill the vacancy. **(Voting will be conducted only while the 1st and 2nd shift meetings are in session).**

Three nominees have returned Acceptance Forms and Statements of Qualification. All candidates have pledged to uphold the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America and the Constitution and by-laws of UE Local 506. The Candidates have also stated that they are familiar with the provisions of the UE-GE National Agreement.

JOSEPH SMITH

State briefly your qualifications for the office that you seek – 7 Years-Sports Committee, 1 year - Sports Committee Accountant, 4 years – Steward, 2 years – Alternate Steward, Bldg. #12, 1 year- Alternate Steward, Bldg. # 18 Truck, 6 years Election Committee.

Local offices held and how long - 7 Years-Sports Committee, 1 year - Sports Committee Accountant, 4 years – Steward, 2 years – Alternate Steward, Bldg. #12, 1 year- Alternate Steward, Bldg. # 18 Truck, 6 years Election Committee.

Membership meetings: 19
Steward meetings: 19

JOHN MILES

State briefly your qualifications for the office that you seek – I have taken (1) Economics class and several college math classes. Participated as a teller in past General and Officers elections.

Local offices held and how long – 5 Years Steward and Alternate Steward

Membership meetings: 21
Steward meetings: 21

DAN BOJARSKI

State briefly your qualifications for the office that you seek – I have served as an Alternate Steward, Steward, National Convention Delegate and Eastern Region Delegate. I would like to further serve our Local as Alternate Trustee. Thank you for your consideration.

In Solidarity,
Dan Bojarski

Local offices held and how long – 4+ years- Alternate Steward and Steward

Membership meetings: 19
Steward meetings: 19

Martin Luther King March

Monday, January 16, 2017 starting at 11:15 we will gather at Perry square to march in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Please join us in recognition of the continued fight for social justice.

HRA Auto-Reimbursement Users: Existing feature related to 2017 HRA credits



When your 2017 HRA credits become available in January, you will automatically receive reimbursement in your bank account or by check for any *prior year* eligible medical expenses not previously reimbursed.

If that should occur, consider setting the reimbursement aside to help offset your 2017 deductible.

Prefer greater control over your reimbursements? – You can choose from Pick & Process or Auto-Reimbursement at any time by logging in at WageWorks.com/GE; clicking on your HRA account and then clicking on the Program Options button.

January Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:

- ⚡ Financial Report
- ⚡ Officers Report
- ⚡ Reduction in Work Force Update
- ⚡ Committee Reports and General Business Matters

Membership Meetings & Times Thursday, January 19, 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

Throughout 2016 there were a total of 275 grievances filed. That is a high number of grievances considering there are roughly half the number of employee's that were here in 2015 with 446 grievances filed that year. Here are the various category's grievances were filed under.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Answering grievances timely (3) | 7. Farm Out Issues (12) |
| 2. Training issues (4) | 8. Overtime issues (13) |
| 3. Contract issues (4) | 9. Company doing bargaining unit work (16) |
| 4. Harassment (5) | 10. Payment issues (24) |
| 5. Terminations (8) | 11. Unjust discipline (35) |
| 6. Moving ee's timely (11) | 12. Miscellaneous (140) |



Under the Miscellaneous category there were 140 grievances filed, most grievances dealt with the Reduction in Forces event that occurred in the spring of 2016. Earn as you go vacation payouts, bumping, Warn Notice payments and moving more senior employee's out from under a Business Leader while less senior remained in the area are in that group. The magnitude of that lay off generated most of our grievances this year.

All Stewards be a responsible leader. Don't let personalities prejudice your actions. Be a positive example to your members. Keep yourself informed about all union matters. Keep your co-workers informed about union policies and union activities. Meet and greet new workers as soon as they come on the job. Inform them, educate them, and help become active union members. Get the people in your work location to act as a union—help them understand that everyone gains when everyone sticks together. Attend union meetings. Encourage and bring members from your department. Don't get down on members for missing meetings. Rather, think of other ways to communicate with them about what the union's working on. Give the membership respect by listening to their problems and treating them seriously. Fight all discrimination. Discourage prejudice of any kind. It does not belong in a union. Keep accurate and timely records. Write it down: you never know when your written notes will help win grievance or save a job. Do not promise what you cannot deliver. Support union activity everywhere. Solidarity knows no bounds. Have current copies of and always be ready to refer to your union contract, by-laws, district and national constitutions. Encourage and support the union's effort to organize the unorganized. Be sure your co-workers know of all the services available through the union. Let no anti-union remark go unanswered. Whenever you meet it, fight the anti-union element with education and information. If you don't know the answer to a members question on a union contract matter, do not hesitate or stull. Nobody expects you to know everything. Say you don't know, then try to get the answer and get back to the member. In dealing with management, remember that you are an elected representative of your brothers and sisters. Despite what management might say or do, when you're dealing with union business, you are always management's equal. Wear your union button and encourage other members to wear them as well. Investigate every grievance as if were your own. Keep the member informed. Make sure you keep your deadlines. There is no excuse for missing a deadline or a time limit. Research every grievance as if it were going to arbitration. But try to resolve it at the lowest possible level. Keep your members informed of the status of each grievance. Remember that your goal is to be the best union representative you can be.

Martin Luther King March

In a Speech given to the Illinois State AFL-CIO SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, OCT. 7, 1965 Martin Luther King, Jr. professed



“The Two most dynamic movements that reshaped the nation during the past three decades are the labor and civil rights movements. Our combined strength is potentially enormous. We have not used a fraction of it for our own good or for the needs of society as a whole. If we make the war on poverty a total war; if we seek higher standards for all workers for an enriched life, we have the ability to accomplish it, and our nation has the ability to provide it. If our two movements unite their social pioneering initiative, thirty years from now people will look back on this day and honor those who had the vision to see the full possibilities of modern society and the courage to fight for their realization. On that day, the brotherhood of man, undergirded by economic security, will be a thrilling and creative reality”.

Although it has been over 50 years since this speech was made it seems that the vision of possibilities have still, not yet become a reality. In some instances we have regressed in the areas of social, economic and racial equality. We must recognize the struggles that have been endured to make progress in achieving equality for all regardless of craft, age, sex, nationality, race, creed or political beliefs. More importantly we must continue the struggle to make Martin Luther King's vision of a modern reality the standard for which we all continue to strive for.

On Monday, January 16, 2017 starting at 11:15 we will gather at Perry square to march in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Please join us in recognition of the continued fight for social justice.



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 has no insurance and are in need of support or counseling don't hesitate to make use of 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 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 and that any challenges we face today is not worth our tomorrow.



President's Report

By Scott Slawson

As we start 2017, we take a moment to reflect on last year. 2016, was a brutal year for the members of UE locals 506

and 618. It started on the first week of the year when 400 of our brothers and sisters were given notice they would be permanently laid off. Those layoffs continued through March 11th. Almost half of our members had been dislocated or accepted retirement in an effort to save jobs. As if this wasn't bad enough, in May the company announced it would be transferring 181 of our jobs and half of our Sister Unions members to outside contractors and other locations. We endured 60 days of decision bargaining and criticism from those outside that felt we should take less and give more to bolster ever increasing profits. July brought about another round of layoffs that sent 62 more of our members to the street. In December we ratified an agreement with membership approval that preserved several of the TOW jobs and created a couple more. The agreement also gives us the ability to try and restore even more of the transferred work.

January 16 is a holiday celebrating the life and accomplishments of one of the greatest leaders of the civil rights and labor movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He gave a speech in Springfield, Illinois in 1965 talking about the value of Unions.

"The labor movement was the

principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress. Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, government relief for the destitute, and, above all, new wage levels that meant not mere survival but a tolerable life. The captains of industry did not lead this transformation, they resisted it until they were overcome. When in the thirties the wave of union organization crested over the nation, it carried to secure shores not only itself but the whole society."

"Civilization began to grow in the economic life of man and a decent life with a sense of security and dignity became a reality rather than a distant dream. It is the mark of our intellectual backwardness that these achievements of labor are still only dimly seen, and in all too many circles the term "union" is still synonymous with self-seeking, power hunger, racketeering and cynical coercion."

Since the 70's governments and corporations have attacked working class people for their wages and benefits. The gap between profits and wages continues to widen and the middle class is eroding at a rapid pace. Despite the opinion of many, Unions are just as important today as they were then.

The Officers and Executive Board would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and welcome you to join us at the annual march to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the labor movement.

Unemployment compensation issues

On Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the request of the Union a meeting was held pertaining to the issues related to TRA/TAA as well as Unemployment. In attendance were all of the local State Representatives, the County Executive, as well as the Governors Director of the Northwest Region.

Every State Representative said that if any of our members are experiencing issues with TRA/TAA or regular State UC, they should contact them immediately to try to remedy the issues. They stressed that members should not hesitate to contact them.

You can identify your State Representative at www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm

National Breast Cancer Foundation

UE 506 Sports Committee with the support of UE 506 and the UE Eastern Region has made a donation of \$3600 to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. We are very grateful to those of you who purchased the pink ribbon shirts to help those without insurance get potentially lifesaving treatment.



Another fine example of greedy union workers helping people in their communities. Many thanks to those of you who gave a little to help people in need.

- Matt McCracken

Election Committee

Only four Local 506 Members, Marilyn Simmons Bldg. 18, Joseph Smith Bldg. 12, Matthew Geertson Bldg. 5, and Matthew Palas Bldg. 6 were nominated for the Election Committee. Therefore an election will not have to be conducted as planned. The remaining vacancies in Bldgs. 2, 7, 10, 18/63/60 and Plant Services were filled by Chiefs appointment.

Your 506 Election Committee representatives are the following:

- Lee Singleton Bldg. 2
- Matt Geertson Bldg. 5
- Matt Palas Bldg. 6
- Joe Newara Bldg. 7
- Dan Mentley Bldg. 10
- Joe Smith Bldg. 12
- Marilyn Simmons Bulding 18C
- Dave Daugherty Bldg. 18T/63/60
- Mike Beebe Plant Services



During the special membership meeting in December a member lost a set of car keys. Those keys have been recovered. You can stop by the hall and pick them up.

FEBRUARY 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Ground Hog Day 	3	4
5 Super Bowl 	6	7	8 618 MEMBERSHIP MEETING RAGE MEMBERSHIP MEETING	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day 506 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 	15	16 506 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	17	18
19	20 President's Day 	21	22	23	24 RAGE BOARD MEETING	25
26	27	28				

Important Medical Plan Numbers and Web sites

[WageWorks](#)
[\(HRA/FSA/DCFSA/LPFSA\)](#)

Wageworks.com/ge
 1-888-303-3006
[GE Benefits Center](#)
OneHR.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. 4237)

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**

EAGLE Raffle

Proceeds benefit the

**MY HEALTH VET PROGRAM
Erie VAMC**

Sponsored by

**SPORTS COMMITTEE
LOCAL 506**



Drawing

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017

**at the Hometown Heroes Bowling Tournament
Eastway Lanes**

"Chainsaw Art by Jess"

jessalgab@gmail.com • 814-899-5128 • Like me on Facebook: Chainsaw Art by Jess

Donation \$2.00 each / 3 for \$5.00

Need not be present to win



**15th ANNUAL
HOMETOWN HEROES
BOWLING TOURNAMENT
EASTWAY LANES
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017
1:00 P.M.**



APPLICATION FORM

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Event shall consist of three (3) games bowled on one (1) pair of lanes assigned by the Tournament Director and all decisions by the Tournament Director are final.
2. **This is a singles event.** Prizes will be awarded to the highest game and highest series bowled by both men and women. There will be no duplication of awards.
3. This is a fun-filled community event for our sponsors and friends of all ages.
4. Please note your bowling fee is not considered a donation to the Erie VA Medical Center and the fee only covers the cost of bowling.

◆ **ENTRY FEE: \$15 each** ◆ **5 people on a lane** ◆ **Limited to the first 200 paid entries**

Deadline to PREREGISTER is Friday, February 17, 2017. Availability is limited the day of the event. Junior bowlers are welcome. Check in begins at Noon. There will also be auctions. Please note that 100% of proceeds will benefit **Erie VA Medical Center.**

Mail ENTRIES to: UE Local 506; 3923 Main Street; Erie, PA 16511. You may also drop off your entry to the Union Hall at the above address any weekday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Make entry fee check payable to: **UE 506 Sports Committee.** Questions concerning the tournament, please contact Matt McCracken at 814-440-0218 or Dave Chadwell at 814-881-7300.

If you would like to **donate** for this fundraising event, please make checks payable to: **Erie VAMC** and mail to **VAMC Voluntary Office, 135 East 38th Street, Erie, PA 16504.**

ENTRY FORM – TEAM LINE UP (please print)

◆ **ENTRY FEE: \$15 each** ◆

FIRST AND LAST NAME

PHONE NO.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Five bowlers not required. Singles or Pairs accepted