Elect Stewards and Alternates in November

The Local 506 Election Committee representatives, working with the Divisional Chief Stewards, will be posting nomination cards for Departmental Stewards and Alternates on Friday, October 25th. Per the 506 Constitution, the elections will be conducted during the first two weeks in November. Any member who has been in good standing for at least six (6) months shall be eligible to run for either office. The term of office will be two years. Stewards and Alternate Stewards will be installed during the last meeting in November following elections. Members who will be using vacation, personal time or on TLOW will be responsible for signing Candidates cards and voting.

Elections Schedule
Second Shift - Tuesday, November 5
Third Shift - Wednesday, November 6
First Shift - Wednesday, November 6

In the event of a tie, there will be run-off elections held on Monday, November 11th.

Eastern Region Delegates Elections

UE Eastern Regional Delegate and Alternate-Delegate Nominations will be taken from the floor during Membership meetings on Thursday, November 21, 2019.

UE Local 506 Constitution allocates Delegate positions for the three Local 506 Officers. The names of nominees for the four additional Delegate positions will be placed on a ballot and a vote will be conducted during the December 19, 2019 Membership meetings.

The four candidates receiving the highest vote totals will assume Regional Delegate status. The next three candidates will serve as Alternate-Delegates. In the case of a tie vote, a run-off election will be held during the January, Membership meetings.

October Membership Meeting Notice

Agenda:
- Financial Report
- Officers Report
- Committee Reports and General Business

Membership Meetings & Times
Thursday, October 17, 2019
(All meetings)
7:20 a.m. (Officers reports only)
12:00 p.m. (2nd Shift)
Early Start for Constitutional Amendments
3:20 p.m. (1st Shift)

No Food Will Be Served At Meetings
Chief Plant Steward’s Report

By Leo Grzegorzewski

We conducted Step II grievance meetings on September 25th and 26th. Forty-one grievances in all were addressed over the two days. Of those, twenty-one testing grievances advanced to Step III. Under the grievance procedure, the Agreement states. “That grievances of a general nature (involving solely matters of contract or policy interpretation obviously not under the jurisdiction of a particular management level) shall be initiated at Step III of the procedure”. The other twenty open grievances addressed various concerns from the shop floor. The results are as follows.

6-Grievances are moving to Step III.

  2-Refusal of Union time Chief Steward and Department Steward
  1-The employee was drug tested and should not have been and lost 30 days’ pay.
  1-Maintenance employees required to utilize overtime sign-up sheets.
  1-E-board members’ time during negotiations not counted towards their 401k payment for 2019.
  1-Overtime Process requiring employees must work so many hrs. on Saturday to be able to work Sunday.

14-Grievances ended closed or settled.

  4-Grievances, the company agreed to reduce warnings.
  2-Grievances addressing payment issues ended with payments.
  8-Grievances were closed, closed per Agreement or closed without prejudice.

The next Step III meeting will be on October 9, 2019. I will give a full report at the next membership meeting on October 17.

Safety in Numbers

By: Safety Coordinators

The OSHA recordable incident rate is a number that is looked at by many for different reasons. Insurance companies, customers, investors and even prospective employees are known to base decisions on a company’s safety performance. For us, this rate helps us gauge our safety culture, and the direction of the program. For years, our injury rate has been well below the industry average, but lately it has been trending in a concerning direction. A higher rate means more of our members are getting seriously injured and that just isn’t acceptable.

Currently, the Erie site has a recordable rate hovering around 2.75, higher than the industry average and above our VPP metric of 2.6. So, what do these numbers mean? Based on a formula of the number of injuries and total labor hours, the recordable rate shows how many people per 100 are getting injured per year. A recordable rate of 2 simply means we are hurting two people out of every 100 beyond a first aid injury.

At the end of the day, we need to do whatever it takes to make sure everyone is going home in the same shape they came to work in….or better! This is going to require all of us to do our part and step up to become safety leaders. Let’s be sure we are following all safe work practices and coaching each other to use all the tools and processes available to ensure we are always performing our work safely. If something doesn’t look right, please say something and do something to help prevent accidents and injuries. With everyone focused on preventing the next injury we can reverse this trend.
As we enter the fourth quarter, we have been meeting with the company on several issues. The top issue being discussed at the moment is the volume reduction we face heading into next year. Right now, there is a sizable decrease in volume as railroads are parking their fleets and not placing orders for new locomotives. The business has communicated that any site producing product for North America will see a decrease in their workload next year. The Company does not have a clear line of sight in the second half of next year and beyond. At this time, the company has not made any decisions regarding headcount and layoffs. Both the railroads and the trucking industry are largely blaming the tariffs for the downturn in the transportation industry as well as the economy. We are continuing to discuss this issue with the company, and when any formal decision is made, we will communicate it immediately.

As I communicated last month, we have also entered into discussions over the new work rules and time and attendance policy. So far, the conversation has been productive and we will continue to pursue what is best to the best of our ability. While, for the most part, the work rules look very familiar to what we currently have, the Time and Attendance policy is drastically different. We have requested information surrounding the new time and attendance policy to better understand the impact it would have on our members. The company is looking to roll out the new policies in November and fully implement effective January 1. We will have a full update at this month’s membership meeting.

Some of the other issues we are discussing are testing for a job on your own time, having to test for a position you have previously held, a newly introduced overtime process that we have many issues with and how people may be impacted in the event there would be a layoff. We will be giving a full report on these issues as well. Also, on the agenda for this month is approving the constitutional amendments as proposed during National Convention.

We have also been formally informed the production work currently being performed at the Boise, Idaho facility is being transferred to Erie. The company is referring to this as a “New Work Commitment” and a great opportunity for the Erie site. We have been on the other side of this coin with our previous employer so our hearts go out to the workers and families being impacted by this decision. The work is projected to start in the second quarter of next year and the company is anticipating roughly 125 new jobs. It will start small in the beginning while we work to build a flow through the shop.

As the year comes to a close, we will be running our annual Trail of Treats benefiting the Sarah Reed Foundation and our Toy Drive so we can help provide a Christmas for underprivileged children. Please open your hearts as you always have and let’s make this a success.

I would like to personally thank the Executive Board for their diligence and dedication to this great Union. We have been through many difficult times together and they have always remained vigilant in their duties. In many cases, they give up their time to benefit the membership. As I have stated many times, we have a first contract with a new employer and we are in for four years of interpretation. The Executive Board has been integral in this process and I wanted to take a minute to express my gratitude and appreciation. Thank you!

As we enter the Holidays and Hunting Season, please keep your head in the game and think about safety. You owe it to your family and friends. Look out for each other and if someone is struggling or needs help, please reach out. Remember, we are family too! 😊
Proposed UE National Constitutional Amendments

Proposed UE National Constitutional Amendments made during the 76th National Convention held August 25-29, 2019 in Pittsburgh, PA will be discussed and voted on during the October 17, 2019 Local 506 Membership meeting. Please review the following proposed amendments in preparation to vote. The 2nd shift membership meeting will start at 12:00 to provide additional time to review the proposed amendments.

Local 506 Date of Meeting OCT. 17, 2019
(Subject to Member Ratification)

ARTICLE 5 Officers
Section A. The officers of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) shall be general president, general secretary-treasurer, director of organization, and a general vice-president for each geographical region so agreed upon.

Local Action ________

ARTICLE 6 The General President
Section B. The general president shall be paid a salary not to exceed an amount equal to the highest weekly wage paid in the industry, and not more than sixty-eight thousand, eight hundred forty-nine dollars and twenty-eight cents ($68,849.28) per year, effective December 1, 2017 and seventy thousand, three hundred ninety-eight dollars and forty-eight cents ($70,398.48) per year effective December 1, 2018.

Local Action ________

ARTICLE 7 The General Secretary-Treasurer
Section C. The general secretary-treasurer shall be paid a salary not to exceed an amount equal to the highest weekly wage paid in the industry, and not more than sixty-eight thousand, eight hundred forty-nine dollars and twenty-eight cents ($68,849.28) per year, effective December 1, 2017 and seventy thousand, three hundred ninety-eight dollars and forty-eight cents ($70,398.48) per year effective December 1, 2018.

Local Action ________

ARTICLE 8 The Director of Organization
Section B. The director of organization shall be paid a salary not to exceed an amount equal to the highest weekly wage paid in the industry, and not more than sixty-eight thousand, eight hundred forty-nine dollars and twenty-eight cents ($68,849.28) per year, effective December 1, 2017 and seventy thousand, three hundred ninety-eight dollars and forty-eight cents ($70,398.48) per year effective December 1, 2018.

Local Action ________

ARTICLE 9 The Trustees
Section A, 4 three-f-three-four trusts, one-four-two from each region and three-eight two alternates, one from each region, shall be nominated and elected by the national convention at the spring regional council meeting.

Section L. General vice presidents shall be paid ten dollars ($10.00) more per week ($520 more per year) than the salary of international representatives. Benefits and expenses for the general vice presidents shall be the same as those received by the national officers.

Local Action ________

Section N. The autonomy of the regions and the ability of the general vice presidents to represent the regions and the locals of the region, and/or to speak on their behalf, shall not be infringed. General vice presidents are elected by and accountable to the locals of the region from which they are elected. All elected officers are accountable to the union as outlined in ARTICLE 25 - UE Rank-and-File Principles. General vice presidents' salaries, expenses and benefits from the national union shall not be used to influence their actions on behalf of the regions. Charges stemming from an allegation that this provision has been violated shall be filed with the general president and a hearing of the general executive board on said allegations shall be scheduled within one month of the filing of charges. Said hearing may be conducted through a conference call.

Local Action ________

Section O. The purpose of the general executive board financial task force shall be to review and oversee the national and regional budgets and make reports and/or
recommendations to the general executive board where appropriate. The financial task force shall consist of the general secretary treasurer, the general vice presidents, one trustee and one general executive board member from each region (designated by the general executive board members from that region) and such other participants as determined by the general executive board.

Local Action ________

ARTICLE 12 Organizational Department

Section D. Salary of the international representatives shall not exceed one thousand, one hundred-sixteen dollars and twelve cents ($1,116.12) one thousand, one hundred ninety-eight dollars and twenty-nine cents ($1,198.29) per week, effective December 1, 2944-2019 and one thousand, one hundred forty-one dollars and one thousand, two hundred forty-six dollars and twenty-two cents week, effective December 1, 2-04-8 2020.

Salary of field organizers shall not exceed one thousand, one hundred, thirty-nine dollars and fifty-eight cents ($1,139.58) per week, effective December 1, 2944—2019 and one thousand, one hundred eighty-five dollars and sixteen cents ($1,185.16) per week effective December 1, -294-8 2020.

Local Action ________

monthly report to each region of regional expenses and regional per capita paid by each local. Each regional council shall determine the proportion and method of representation of locals to the regional council.

Local Action ________

Section E Sub-regions shall be formed in geographic areas within each region. Such sub-regions within the territory of a regional council shall be supervised by the regional council. None of the activities or actions of a sub-region shall conflict with the activities or actions of the regional council or the national union. Each sub-region will meet at least one time per year. At the spring regional council meeting, the council shall review the levels of participation in each sub-region and, if necessary, revise the number of sub-regions and the geographic area comprising each sub-region.

Local Action ________

Section H. Each regional council shall set up in its regional council rules and by-laws, nomination and election machinery, for the purpose of electing all regional officers. The names of the general vice president, regional financial secretary, regional vice president, and delegates-at large elected by the region as members of the general executive board shall be in the national office by May 1st. Such machinery must ensure that each local’s membership has the opportunity to register its choice either by secret referendum or by a majority vote of the regional council whose delegates are elected by secret ballot in accordance with procedures established by each local union in the region.

Local Action ________

Section J. Regional councils shall be allowed five delegates and fee-F five votes at the national convention,

Local Action ________

Section K. The funding and expenses of regional councils shall be paid by the national union. At the May/June general executive board meeting of each year each region shall propose to the general executive board a complete line item regional budget for the following fiscal year. The general executive board shall approve the regional budgets subject to amendments only if necessary due to financial constraints and while respecting the autonomy of the regions.

Local Action ________

Section L. Regions are integral to the democratic rank and file structure of the UE and, as such, the general executive board will regularly assess the regional per capita income needed to maintain a full-time general vice president in each region. Should the regional per capita income and number of members in a particular geographic area warrant the formation of an additional region the general executive board may propose to the convention adding an additional region.

Local Action ________

(Existing Sections E through P renamed Sections F through Q)

Local Action ________

ARTICLE 29 Transition

Section A. The current three regions shall continue to exist and function under normal operations, except as otherwise noted below, until April 30, 2020.

Section B. Realizing that the transitional period of converting from the present structure of three regions to two regions will require certain inconsistencies from existing regional constitutions, the existing regional officers from those regions being restructured are hereby given the authority to work in cooperation with each other and the national officers to accomplish the changes required to complete such restructuring. During the transitional period, if a conflict arises between the
national constitution and a regional constitution, the national constitution shall take precedence.

Section C. The existing regional executive boards shall designate representatives to begin meeting in the fall of 2019 with representatives of other regions in order to draft proposed constitutions, financial practices, sub-regional maps and budgets for the new regions. The national union will coordinate initial meeting dates and locations.

The final meetings of the existing regional councils shall convene in the fall of 2019.

In January 2020 the general executive board shall meet and adopt final restructuring details and issue provisional charters for the new regions.

Regional officers shall be nominated and elected at the first meeting of each regional council, to be held in March or April 2020. The general executive board shall post timely notice for the first regional elections in the UE News. The minimum regional positions to be elected shall be a regional president, regional vice president, regional financial secretary, regional executive board members, five general executive board delegates-at-large, two trustees and one alternate. The general executive board, at its January 2020 meeting, shall specify the precise list of offices to be elected in each region after hearing the recommendations of the rank and file committees charged with drafting the regional constitutions. This term of office shall expire no later than the end of April 2021. The term of office for the national trustees elected at the 2019 national convention shall end April 30, 2020, at which time the trustees elected at the Spring 2020 regional council meetings shall assume the duties of office.

Regional constitutions and by-laws shall be adopted at the first meeting of each regional council and ratified by referendum vote of the locals no later than June 15, 2020.

The regional councils, at their first meeting, shall establish geographic sub-regions in accordance with Article 13, Section F of this constitution.

Section D. On January 1, 2020, all financial assets and property of the regions shall become the property of the national union and the national union shall be responsible for all liabilities and expenses of the regions. On May 1, 2020 the former regions shall cease to function and the new regions shall commence full operation. The regions shall operate under the same principles and act with the same authority as the previously existing regions until such time as a regional constitution has been ratified by the locals and approved by the general executive board.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PUBLIC SECTOR OSHA - HB 1082 & SB 464

INTRODUCTION: Forty-nine (49) years ago, when OSHA was created, the legislators found it necessary to carve out the public sector employees from coverage and protections under OSHA. By doing that they effectively created an injustice to the public sector workers that we need to address. The oversight for the safety of workers in our state should not be determined by their type of employer. This issue is non-partisan and non-affiliation.

WHEREAS, OSHA also offers education and assistance to workers and employers to make their working environment safer for all; and

WHEREAS, local and state government employees, in Pennsylvania, are generally not covered by OSHA, even though they perform similar job functions and are exposed to similar risks as private-sector employees; and

WHEREAS, the Jake Schwab Worker’s Safety Bill (HB 1028 and SB 464) would extend protections similar to those provided for under OSHA to local and state government employees in Pennsylvania, at no or minimal cost to local governments; and

WHEREAS, since legislation has already been written (HB 1082 and SB 464) that when passed and enacted into law would offer protection under the state OSHA for all workers including public sector workers, and

WHEREAS, UE LOCAL 506 MEMBERS affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person; we advocate and approve just laws and regulations that protect people from harm.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the MEMBERS of UE LOCAL 506 urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to support and quickly pass HB 1082 Jake Schwab’s Worker Safety Bill and the Pennsylvania Senate to support and quickly pass SB 464 which both address the issue of public sector OSHA and will resolve a 49-year injustice to those workers.

The undersigned hereto affirm the passage of this resolution on ____ day of __________________, 2019.

Name __________________________ Name __________________________
Name __________________________ Name __________________________
Name __________________________ Name __________________________
Name __________________________ Name __________________________
Name __________________________ Name __________________________

Stewards please return signed copies to your Chief Steward.
The seeds of the Employees’ Community Services Fund (CSF) of General Electric were first planted in June 1941 as the UE 506 Executive Board began discussing the growing frequency of non-profit agencies’ soliciting in the plant. It was suggested that a single fund is created to address the charitable giving of its members. With 187 non-profits listed in Erie County alone, something had to be done to limit the numerous appeals.

Before it could be brought to life, World War II intervened and everyone’s concerns focused on supporting our armed forces and the country. The support of employees and their families to the war effort was outstanding.

When the war ended, the same spirit of cooperation aided in addressing the social problems our community faced. Many of the non-profits were overwhelmed trying to help those in need. In 1946 the unions and the company began discussions surrounding the requests to fund those non-profit programs. John Nelson, UE 506 President, took particular interest in the formation of the fund and with his leadership developed a plan. In June 1949 the formation of the CSF was approved by UE 506 and 618 Executive boards and brought to the other unions. On July 18, 1949, the membership of 506 voted for its approval and the CSF was born.

A constitution was finalized providing for a fund administered by the employees (hourly, non-exempt and ineligible) with the overhead cost absorbed by the company. In October of 1949, the first solicitation of members was made by Chief Stewards and was very successful. It was what the membership was looking for: a way to help the community without being solicited on numerous occasions.

In November 1949 volunteers were elected to serve on the first board. The first meeting took place on January 9, 1950, in Bldg. 14, room 532 at 9:30 a.m. and the first Chairman Frank Blewett was elected. From this humble beginning started a sixty-nine-year tradition of giving. The first check was written on March 7, 1950, to the Community Chest of Erie County, a predecessor of the present-day United Way of Erie County in the amount of $9,517.00. Since then over $18,000,000.00 has been disbursed throughout the community! As the members saw the benefits, the fund grew and participation soared to over 90%.

Over the years the pride and generosity of the members of the plant have become known not only locally, but nationally. We have helped build hospitals, senior care centers, food pantries, emergency shelters, and community recreation areas. A collective effort that has touched every employee’s life in some way or another.

Through tornados, storms, floods, fires, disease, and wars of Korea, Vietnam, Granada, Somalia, Bosnia, the Gulf and Afghanistan the CSF has supported victims, families, and veterans through the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Veterans groups and others.

Much has changed over the past 69 years. One thing that remains constant… the needs in our communities in which we live.

As a result of the negotiations with our new employer Wabtec, the Employees’ Community Services Fund of General Electric will change. Although the company has agreed to administer payroll deductions, they are unwilling to absorb the overhead cost. That choice forces us to restructure the current CSF Constitution and By-laws. The CSF Board of Directors and the Union Executive Board met last month to discuss the impact of the company’s decision and how we move forward. The CSF Constitution and By-Laws Article V, Revisions or Amendments allows amendments to be submitted with one-week advanced written notice to the Secretary of the CSF Board. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board of Administrator can be submitted to the membership for a vote. To establish proper amendments for the member’s consideration, the boards will work together with accountants and lawyers. We will do our utmost to ensure we are planting the necessary seeds for another sixty-nine years of giving. Keep in mind that when conditions change our principals always remain the same. Proud to be UE.

“We make a living for our families, but we make a life by what we do for others.”

–M.F.
How Does GE’s Pension Announcement Affect Us in Erie?

On October 7, GE announced that it was freezing Pension benefits for 20,000 salaried employees and will begin to offer “cash-outs” to 100,000 former U.S. employees who have vested pensions, but are not yet collecting benefits under the plan. GE claims that these two actions will save it $8 billion.

GE cannot require that you accept a “cash-out.” Acceptance of a “cash-out” is voluntary.

As former GE employees with vested pension benefits, our pensions are guaranteed by the government-run Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) and cannot legally be reduced. However, by offering us “cash-outs,” we may be voluntarily agreeing to reductions in the value of our retirement benefits. GE’s “cash-out” offers may be significantly less than the value of your pension. Please remember that GE expects to save $8 billion dollars from offering a combination of “cash-outs” and freezing salaried employees pensions.

UE Local 506 is not equipped to provide financial advice on whether to accept the “cash-out.” Everyone’s financial situation is different and the value of your GE pension varies based upon your age, GE service, and when you plan to retire. If you accept a “cash-out” and do not rollover the funds into a 401K or other retirement account, you may be subjected to substantial additional tax obligations. Before making a decision on a “cash-out offer,” we strongly suggest that you speak to a trusted financial advisor.

The UE National Union has issued a press release, condemning GE’s pension decisions: “GE is displaying naked corporate greed, forcing its workers to pay the price for GE’s management’s reckless decisions, said UE Director of Organization, who led UE’s bargaining with GE in 2015.

“From decades of bargaining with GE, we are well aware of how this company likes to play financial shell games to hide assets and claim poverty while enriching its CEO and other executives.”

2019 On-Site Flu Shots Schedule
Provided by Sam’s Club

Who:
• Employees enrolled in a Wabtec health plan
• Provided by Sam’s Club pharmacists

What:
• Flu shots, covered 100% by Wabtec Insurance
• Bring your Pharmacy Card or Member ID #

Questions? Call 875-2034

Where & When:

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Medical Center 3rd Shift by Appt only

Working 3rd shift?
Get your flu shot at the Medical Center, or see B14 dates above
One make up day to be scheduled with Medical Center More info to come
The annual Veterans Day Parade is Saturday, November 9, 2019, at 9:30. Parade forms up on French Street side of Veterans Stadium (28th and French) at 9 A.M. sign up with your Chief Steward or call Matt McCracken at 814-440-0218. Friends and family welcome. All who sign up by 4 P.M. November 1 and attend the parade will get a shirt provided by the UE 506 Sports Committee.

6th Annual
VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST
Sunday, November 3, 2019
Polish Falcons Club • 431 East 3rd Street, Erie, PA
9am till 11:30am

FREE to all Veterans & their Families!
No ID required

***For reservations, please call a member below with the number of guests that will be attending and if any Veteran will need a ride to the event.

Transportation will be provided by Burton Funeral Homes thru reservations with Jack, Ron or Mike only (see below)***

Jack Lee
President
Erie-Crawford CLC
814-455-4752

Ron Oliver
AFL-CIO Labor Liaison
United Way of Erie County
814-860-1793

Mike Butler
Chairman
Erie-Crawford CLC
814-881-9835
Important Numbers and Websites

HAVING BENEFITS ISSUES?
Call Mark Kresse at 875-6620
or Lisa Dine at 875-5552

HAVING PAYROLL ISSUES?
Call Rebecca Marshall
at 875-4909

HAVING SHORT TERM
DISABILITY ISSUES?
Call Lorne Meyers
at 875-6505

CALL TO REPORT – 875-4000

If members or their loved ones are struggling with alcohol dependency you can get help
Call (814) 452-2675 or go to
Website: www.nnig.org

**ONE DAY AT A TIME**

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

*SOBRIETY IS A JOURNEY … NOT A DESTINATION*

HIGHMARK – 1-800-811-0391
E-MAIL – highmarkbcbs.com

AETNA – 1-866-317-6989
E-MAIL – aetna.com

BCC SMART CARE – 1-800-685-6100
E-MAIL – www.mywealthcareonline.com/bccsmartcare

CVS – 1-877-347-7444
E-MAIL – caremark.com

METLIFE – 1-800-942-0854
E-MAIL – microsite.ehr.com

DAVISVISION – 1-800-999-5431
E-MAIL – microsite.ehr.com

LINCOLN FINANCIAL DISABILITY
CLAIMS – 1-844-829-5509

WABTEC PAYROLL/ENROLLMENT
INFORMATION – 518-690-4612
E-MAIL – microsite.ehr.com/Wabtec

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### NOVEMBER 2019

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>506 Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>506 Membership Meetings</td>
<td>RAGE BOARD MEETING</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
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