



Volume 72, Issue 3  
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# LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

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

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## Constitutional Amendments

Any proposed changes to the UE local 506 Constitution must be submitted in writing by the end of the first shift March membership meeting. Proposals submitted in writing will be discussed and voted on in May. Submissions must clearly state the current article and section of the Constitution sought to be amended along with the proposed change.

## Local 506 Trustees Election

UE Local 506 Trustee Steve Hyzer has retired; therefore, a special election will be held in April. Nominations will be accepted from the floor during the March, membership meetings. Nominees will receive notification and enclosed therein a form of acceptance. Failure to return the form in the specified amount of time will be considered a declination of the nomination by the member. All candidates will pledge 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.

## Eastern Region Delegates

The following Members have accepted nominations and will represent UE Local 506 as Delegates to the Eastern Region.

Christine Smith  
Dale Sonney  
James Hibbler  
Bryan Pietrzak



## MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

Out of an abundance of caution, we strongly encourage everyone to attend membership meetings via Zoom. A maximum of 50 people will be permitted during in-person membership meetings. Anyone in excess of 50 will be asked to attend the meeting via Zoom. All in attendance will be required to wear a mask and asked to help disinfect their area before departing.

### Agenda:

- ⚡ Financial Report
- ⚡ Officers Report
- ⚡ Committee Reports and General Business

### Membership Meetings & Times Thursday, March 18, 2021

- 7:30 a.m. (3rd Shift)
- 12:30 p.m. (2nd Shift)
- 3:30 p.m. (1st Shift)

# Chief Plant Steward's Report

By Leo Grzegorzewski



Happy March everyone, I hope all is well. At last month's membership meeting, I gave a preliminary report on the results from our Step II grievance meeting held the week earlier. The remaining 139 grievances from 2020 were presented during that meeting. As you can see, not much has changed. The following are the official results from the February 11th Step II.

(63) - Letters

(10) - Holds

(66) - Closed/Closed per agreement

Since my report from February, the grievance committee voted to request seven more grievances go to arbitration. They are listed below.

(2) - Stewards receiving warnings for allegedly being lined up at the time clock too early. They were the only ones written up out of approximately eight employees in the vicinity at the time of the incident. **(Company targeting Union Representatives)**

(1) - Building 12 Divisional Chief Steward, unjustly receiving a warning and week off without pay. **(Company targeting Union Representatives)**

(1) - An employee was issued a warning and a week off without pay for reporting an injury. The company maintains, he did not report his injury on time.

(1) - An employee from building 10 was improperly dropped down in classification during a Lack of Work event while employees with less service remained in the department with less seniority at the higher rate of pay.

(1) - Short Term Disability waiting period from 3 days to 7 days. During negotiations, three days was the agreed-upon waiting period.

(1) - Placement of Stewards during a Permanent Lack of Work situation. **(Company targeting Union Representation)**

Finally, good news from the CDC, COVID-19 cases are dropping along with hospitalizations and deaths. The increase of available vaccines and locations to get them is great news. Another encouraging sign, the CDC has relaxed some but not all COVID-19 restrictions for the general public, and their signaling more to come. If we keep following CDC guidelines through the spring and summer hopefully, by the end of summer we will be back as close to normal as possible. Stay safe and continue to be strong, we are almost there. 🌩️

## 1909 UPRISING OF 20,000

In the first decade of the twentieth century, immigrant women workers revolted against appalling sweatshop conditions in the garment industry. Italian and Eastern Jewish women, many of whom did not speak English, launched a series of strikes that reached from New York City to Chicago and Cleveland. In 1909 the "Uprising of the 20,000" spread to 500 shops in 24 hours gaining widespread support and winning almost all of the demands voiced by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Joined by women in the suffrage movement, they held a demonstration in New York on March 8, 1909 demanding better conditions, an end to child labor and the right to vote. Today, that day is celebrated as International Women's Day. Sisterhood and solidarity nourished each other as these women wrote a vital chapter in both women's history and labor history. 🌩️



# Possible Side Effects After a COVID-19 Vaccine

If you receive the COVID-19 vaccine and experience side effects at work, members should inform their supervisor and go to the medical center. If you are at home and will be unable to come to work call 875-4000 to report and contact your HRM.

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may feel like flu and may even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. If you have pain or discomfort, talk to your doctor about taking an over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

## Common side effects on the arm where you got the shot:

- Pain
- Swelling



## Throughout the rest of your body:

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Chills
- Headache



## To reduce pain and discomfort where you got the shot:

- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area.
- Use or exercise your arm.



## To reduce discomfort from fever:

- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Dress lightly.



## Contact your doctor or healthcare provider:

- If the redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours
- If your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days

## Remember:

- Side effects can affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.
- With most COVID-19 vaccines, you will need 2 shots in order for them to work. Get the second shot even if you have side effects after the first one, unless a vaccination provider or your doctor tells you not to get a second shot.
- It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines that require 2 shots may not protect you until a week or two after your second shot. ⚡

# President's Report

By Scott Slawson



Recently we suffered an additional loss of 32 of our brothers and sisters to the street in yet another layoff. In our opinion it was unnecessary. This could have easily been administered through temporary layoffs but unfortunately, that was not the case. Fortunately, however, we have been approved for another TRA petition. This new petition will greatly benefit not just the most recent layoffs but those going all the way back to September 29th of last year.

During the most recent all-hands meeting the question was asked about when Erie may start ramping up again and the answer was really no surprise. It was the same old Erie is not COMPETITIVE jargon. It's always portrayed as union wages being the issue and never represented as bad management. Yes, I said bad management, not bad managers. There is a difference. Managers have to work with the tools they are given from those above them. Those above them rely on what information is given to them from those below to decide what tools are needed. If that system is broken it leads to poor decision making, thus poor management.

It has been said that metrics breed bad management. When we focus solely on one issue, we lose sight of everything else. Take TOP (time on product) as an example. If we are so focused on TOP, we lose sight of cost. Decisions are made to get efficiency up that ultimately may cause the cost to increase as well. We have seen areas TLOW people only to work the weekend. From a cost perspective, this makes no sense. First, the plant managers are saddled with the IEA costs. Second, all overhead costs related to benefits are still expenses, and finally, you are now paying a premium rate to meet customer commitment. While this may improve time on product it definitely increases cost.

The point of all this is simple and has been pointed out many times. Being competitive is more than just the wages you pay. Clean up your house before you call out your neighbors for being dirty. During our 84-year history, we have never asked for more after a contract has been settled. All we ask is that the same courtesy is afforded to us.

Currently, we are working with Local, State and Federal officials to work towards implementing new emission standards for locomotives. It is amazing how many old, outdated locomotives are still in service. If our initiative is successful it has the potential to create a lot of work for quite some time for many people as well as contribute to minimizing pollution. During the all-hands meeting it also seemed to be a top priority for the company.

The Officers and Executive Board would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter! ⚡

# Protect the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R.842) Reintroduced

The American economy is not working for most Americans. While corporations and the wealthy continue to capture the rewards of a growing economy — working families and middle-class Americans are being left behind. From 1980 to 2017, average incomes for the bottom 90 percent of households increased just 1.1 percent, while average incomes for the wealthiest 1 percent increased more than 184 percent.

This inequality is not a natural product of a functioning economy. It is the result of policy choices that have stripped workers of the power to join together and negotiate for decent wages, benefits, and working conditions. The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act restores fairness to the economy by strengthening the federal laws that protect workers' right to join a union.

Unions are critical to increasing wages and creating an economy that rewards hardworking people, but special interest-funded attacks on labor laws have eroded union membership. In 1956, roughly one in every three workers were union members. After a decades-long effort to weaken and exploit toothless labor laws, just 10 percent of American workers are unionized today.

The Protect the Right to Organize (PRO) Act was reintroduced into the House and Senate on February 4, 2021 by Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA) and a group of other Democratic congresspeople and senators. The PRO Act was passed by Congress in 2020, at the time, the PRO Act had bipartisan support with five Republicans supporting the bill but the Senate, then controlled by Republican Mitch McConnell, refused to consider it.

“The decades-long assault on workers’ rights – led by special interests in state legislatures, courts, and employers across the country – has suppressed union membership and eroded America’s middle class,” said Congressman Scott. “The Protecting the Right to Organize Act is a major step toward ensuring that workers can exercise their basic right to form a union and collectively bargain for higher pay, safer working conditions, and decent benefits – including paid leave, quality health care, and a secure retirement.”

While the PRO Act is expected to pass in the House, it faces an uncertain future in the Senate. With the Senate tied at 50-50, Democrats would need to convince 10 Republicans to let the bill move forward or eliminate the filibuster. This piece of legislation would be the biggest overhaul of labor law since WWII.

Some of the significant changes that the PRO Act would make include:

- ⚡ Creating monetary penalties against employers who try to illegally bust unions
- ⚡ Strengthening protections for workers who are wrongly fired during union organizing campaigns
- ⚡ Allowing workers to take employers to court when they've broken collective bargaining laws
- ⚡ Making it easier for newly formed unions to secure their first contracts
- ⚡ Bolstering workers' rights related to strikes and boycotts
- ⚡ Overriding anti-union “right to work” laws that have now spread to a majority of states
- ⚡ Making it harder for companies like to avoid unions by using “independent contractors”

To ensure passage of the PRO Act we will need to pressure our representatives to vote for the bill. You can help get the PRO Act passed by going to <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/pro-act> and letting your Congressman and Senator know that you support the PRO Act or call your representatives and senators today at (202) 224-3121 and demand that they co-sponsor this important piece of legislation!

## Summer Picnic Raffle



**5 BURNER GAS GRILL**



**STEEL-BELTED 54 QRT. COOLER**



**\$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE**



**\$50.00 BEER/POP GIFT CERTIFICATE**  
**PENN BEER**  
SALES & SERVICE

**TICKETS: \$1.00 each / 7 for \$5.00**

Sponsored by and Benefit  
SPORTS COMMITTEE  
LOCAL 505



ACTIVITIES

**Drawing at the conclusion of the May First Shift Membership Meeting**

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# Trade BRI (Benefit Rights Interview)

Members who were Laid-off after September 28, 2020, and before February 26, 2021, are required to attend a full Benefits Rights Interviews to be eligible for trade benefits under TA-W#96182. Members will also be required to fill out new 855 and UCP 11-d forms to be eligible for the new Trade Petition TA-W#96182.

The Trade BRI's will be held virtually on Skype and in-person at the union hall. A maximum of 50 people will be permitted to attend in-person meetings. Anyone in excess of 50 will be asked to attend the meeting via Skype. All in attendance will be required to wear masks and be required to disinfect their area before departing. BRI's are scheduled for

**Friday, March 19, 2021 10:00am-11:45am or 1:30pm-2:45pm (EDT)**

and

**Thursday, March 25, 2021 10:00am-11:45am or 1:30pm-2:45pm (EDT)**

You must fill out the online SURVEY (Step 1, above) to get an INVITE to the Virtual TRADE BRI meeting.

- Step 1) Sign up here - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WABTECErie96182>  
Sign up above and you will get an invite via email within 48 hours. (If you don't receive the email, check your Spam folder.)
- Step 2) Fill out ONLY the highlighted sections of document, [FORM 8-55](#) Print, sign, and get it to the Union Hall. This is how you will get your Trade Determination under Petition #93917. You **must** have a **determination to use your trade benefits!**
- Step 3) Make sure you read over the [Trade Handbook](#) (UCP-11D)
- Step 4) You will also need to [PRINT and SIGN the UCP-11D form](#) that states you have received and read the UCP-11D trade handbook (link above).
- Step 5) Return the two signed FORMS (8-55 & UCP 11-D acknowledgment) to the UE 506 Union Hall **PRIOR TO MEETING.**

Make sure when you get the Invite via Email, that you check to see if you can use the SKYPE link either on your phone or computer PRIOR TO THE MEETING. The best way to do that... **is before your virtual meeting.** Check the link, and download the Skype APP or you can use the web browser link. It's best to be able to "see" the presentation on the screen. *More directions will be coming via email once you sign up above or [HERE](#).*

## **IMPORTANT LINKS** (if the links in the BLUE highlighted section above don't work)

For additional information UE 506 website - <http://uelocal506.com>

\*Form 855- <http://uelocal506.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/855-GE-Wabtec-5-20-2.pdf>

\*Trade Handbook - <https://www.uc.pa.gov/Documents/UCP%20Forms/ucp-11D.pdf>

\*UCP 11-D form - <http://uelocal506.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/UCP-11-d-FORM-WABTEC-1.pdf>

For technical difficulties - email Bev at [berapp@pa.gov](mailto:berapp@pa.gov)

## **GE Transportation a WABTEC Company - Erie TRA Time Line TA-W# 96182**

Impact Date	Filing Date	Certification Date	26-weeks from Certification	Expiration Date
<u>9/29/20</u>	<u>9/8/20</u>	<u>2/7/21</u>	<u>8/14/21</u>	<u>2/7/23</u>

**Certification Date** – The date workers are certified as eligible to apply for TAA/TRA benefits by the US Department of Labor and for purposes of determining the first payable week.

**Impact Date** – The date USDOL determines that foreign competition first affected the workers. This is usually 1 year prior to the filing date; however, since petition 93917 did not expire until 9/28/20, the impact date for this petition begins the following day.

**Petition Filing Date** – The date USDOL determines the petition was filed.

**Expiration Date** – The date the petition certification expires. Expiration is 2 years after the certification date.



# My SmartCare: Registration Guide

The My SmartCare online portal and mobile app allow you to freely and securely access your BCC Reimbursement Accounts 24/7/365. You can register from either platform. Here's how:

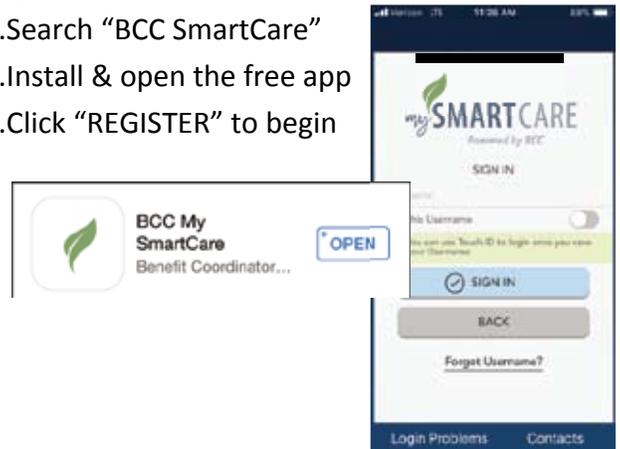
## My SmartCare Online Portal

1. Go To:  
<https://www.mywealthcareonline.com/bccsmartcare/>
2. Click 'REGISTER' at the top right corner of the screen to begin



## My SmartCare Mobile App

1. Open the app store from your iOS or Android powered device
2. Search "BCC SmartCare"
3. Install & open the free app
4. Click "REGISTER" to begin



- When registering as a new user, My SmartCare will walk you through a series of registration questions followed by a secure authentication process to validate you as a user.
- Use your **Social Security Number** as your **Employee ID**.
- Use your **Benefits Debit Card number or your Employer ID** as your **Registration ID**.
  - WABTEC's Employer ID: BCCWTC
- By registering with My SmartCare, you will have the option to receive important push notifications (account balance, grace period, year-end reminders; notice of debit card mailed, etc.) via e-mail or text message. You can manage these notifications in your My SmartCare communication settings.
- You have the option to save your User ID to your mobile device by choosing 'ON' next to "Save this Online ID". This will allow you to bypass the secure sign in process each time you log in after you verify your identity during the initial log in.

If you have questions regarding your account(s) or a specific claim, please contact BCC's Customer Service Center at 1-800-685-6100. Any device issues should be directed to your service provider.



# Additional Benefits Debit Card Request Form



EMPLOYER:	GROUP NUMBER:	BCCWTC
EMPLOYEE NAME:	EMPLOYEE SSN:	
EMPLOYEE STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
Additional Benefits Debit Card Holder Information The dependent spouse or child must be 18 years of age or older to receive a benefits card.		
NAME:		
SSN:		
DATE OF BIRTH:		
IS SHIPPING ADDRESS DIFFERENT FROM EMPLOYEE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
IF YES, STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:    STATE:    ZIP:		
RELATIONSHIP TO EMPLOYEE: <input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> DEPENDENT (OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE)		

SUBMIT THIS FORM TO BENEFIT COORDINATORS CORPORATION (BCC):

- Fax: 412-276-7185    • E-Mail: [bcc-claims@bccbenefitsolutions.com](mailto:bcc-claims@bccbenefitsolutions.com)    • Download to BCC's secure FTP website: <http://secure.benxcel.com>
- Mail: Benefit Coordinators Corporation, Attn: Claims, Two Robinson Plaza, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

## Instructions For Weekly Plow Reoccurring IEA Payments Application

What is needed to submit your IEA claim? Provide one of the following:

1. Unemployment compensation (UC) check stub\*
2. Unemployment compensation (UC) benefit claim history
3. Exhaustion of UC Letter for the period being claimed

\*If the UC check/deposit stub shows net earnings only, you will need to include one of the following:

- Notice of Financial Determination
- Wage Transcript
- Monetary Letter showing gross earnings
- UC benefit claim history from your state's website

Please note: Bank statements acceptable proof of Unemployment Compensation.

To obtain information regarding your State unemployment benefits, please contact your State unemployment office or go to <https://www.paclaims.pa.gov/uccc/WelcomeBenefitStatus.asp>

How to complete the Weekly Application for IEA form:

1. Enter the last day for the week(s) you are claiming (Monday - Sunday). Be sure the weeks you are claiming match the weeks of UC proof (benefits payment history) submitted.
2. Do not submit an application for a UC waiting period. You are not eligible for IEA payments during a UC waiting period.

3. Use GROSS amounts (before taxes/deductions).
4. Only report non-GE earnings once your UC has been exhausted.

### How to set up reoccurring payments

1. Follow the "How to complete the Weekly Application for IEA form" above for the 1<sup>st</sup> IEA claim you submit
2. If there is NO change to your UC wages for the weeks following your 1<sup>st</sup> IEA claim, you can send an email to [GETSpecialPayments@wabtec.com](mailto:GETSpecialPayments@wabtec.com) which must include:
  - a. Title/Subject of the email must be "Reoccurring IEA"
  - b. Please supply your Name, SSO, Week begin and end date (Mon-Sun) and the statement of "NO CHANGE"

This will pay the same amount you set up for your initial claim and does not require a new IEA Form

If a change occurs to your UC wages you will need to follow step 1 of this process to reset your reoccurring claim

If the claim has missing, insufficient, or illegible information, this will delay the processing of your IEA payment. An agent will contact you at the phone number or email provided to collect additional information.

Please submit your application by Thursday at 1 p.m. to receive payment the following week.

## Important Numbers and Websites

### Employment Leader

Please contact Beth Pollard at (814) 875-2720 or [beth.pollard@wabtec.com](mailto:beth.pollard@wabtec.com).

### For Questions Related To U.S. Employee Benefits,

Please contact Wabtec Benefits Service Center at (866) 806-4260

### For Questions Related To Erie PA Health Services

(Wabtec Medical Center), Please contact Charlie Ramsey at (814) 875-2034 or [charles.ramsey@wabtec.com](mailto:charles.ramsey@wabtec.com).

### HAVING PAYROLL ISSUES?

Call Steve Pettys at 875-6505

**CALL TO REPORT – 875-4000**

**FMLA 1-844-372-1594**

**If members or their loved ones are struggling with alcohol dependency you can get help**

Call (814) 452-2675 or go to Website: [www.nni.org](http://www.nni.org)



HIGHMARK – 1-800-811-0391

E-MAIL – [highmarkbcbs.com](mailto:highmarkbcbs.com)

AETNA – 1-866-317-6989

E-MAIL – [aetna.com](mailto:aetna.com)

BCC SMART CARE – 1-800-685-6100

E-MAIL – [www.mywealthcareonline.com/bccsmartcare](http://www.mywealthcareonline.com/bccsmartcare)

CVS – 1-877-347-7444

E-MAIL – [caremark.com](mailto:caremark.com)

METLIFE – 1-800-942-0854

E-MAIL – [microsite.ehr.com](mailto:microsite.ehr.com)

DAVISVISION – 1-800-999-5431

E-MAIL – [microsite.ehr.com](mailto:microsite.ehr.com)

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

E-MAIL – [www.MyLincolnPortal.com](http://www.MyLincolnPortal.com)

WABTEC PAYROLL/ENROLLMENT INFORMATION – 518-690-4612

E-MAIL – [microsite.ehr.com/Wabtec](mailto:microsite.ehr.com/Wabtec)



## MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS VIA ZOOM



The Officers will be conducting the March, Membership meetings via Zoom webinar and in-person. It is easy to join the meeting via smartphone, tablet, computer or landline. For the best experience download the zoom app via smartphone, tablet or computer. If you would just like to call and listen, there will be a phone number for landlines as well. Only members are invited and are required to verify their membership. **To assure that members who would like to attend the March membership meeting via Zoom are sent a proper invitation we are requesting that members email the following information to [uelocal506solidarity@gmail.com](mailto:uelocal506solidarity@gmail.com). This is also an effort to avoid unnecessary emails and assure email address accuracy. Once members receive a proper invitation to their requested meeting, they will not be required to submit additional emails going forward.**

Members requesting invitation please email the following information to [uelocal506solidarity@gmail.com](mailto:uelocal506solidarity@gmail.com)

Name

Building

Meeting (shift you would like to attend)

Telephone Number

Membership Meetings & Times

**Thursday, March 18, 2021**

7:30 a.m. (3rd Shift) 12:30 p.m. (2nd Shift)

3:30 p.m. (1st Shift)

## APRIL 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Good Friday	3
4 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 618 MEMBERSHIP MEETING	15 STEP II MEETING (Tentative)	16	17
18	19	20 506 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	21	22 506 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 STEP III MEETING (Tentative)	30	