



Volume 72, Issue 9  
Friday, September 10, 2021

# LOCAL 506 UNION NEWS

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<http://www.uelocal506.com>

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## SPECIAL ELECTION

Local 506 will conduct special elections for the offices of Business Agent and Executive Board Member at Large during the September 16, 2021, first and second shift meetings. Voting will take place while meetings are in session. Any member in good standing is encouraged to come to the Union Hall and vote and is required to attend the meeting.

## Constitutional Amendments

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

## UE National Convention

The UE National Convention will take place virtually from 11 am to 6 pm Monday, September 20, 2021 through Friday, September 24, 2021. The local delegates have been given informational packets, which contain registration information. Please fill out the registration form and return it to the union hall ASAP. Delegates must be registered by 12 o'clock noon, September 10, 2020. If any of the delegates require assistance completing the form please call or stop by the union hall. ⚡

## SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Officers will be continue conducting in-person Membership Meetings in September. Meetings will not be broadcast via Zoom.

### Agenda:

- ⚡ **Special Election**
- ⚡ **Financial Report and Officers Report**
- ⚡ **Committee Reports and General Business**

### Thursday, September 16, 2021

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



I want to start by thanking all of the candidates that are running for local offices. There are two offices up for election, Business Agent and E-board Member at Large in September. Our members are fortunate to have qualified candidates running for both offices. Voting will take place on September 16th during the first and second shift membership meetings. Your vote really does make a difference. Put a reminder in your phone or a note on your refrigerator for September 16th, and make sure you come to the hall and vote! Remember, "The members run this Union."

Briefly, on the subject of filing grievances. The number of grievances being filed has slowed down over the past several months. Why this is occurring? There may be several reasons. One being the company is not violating the contract as of late. I know for a fact; the company has not slowed down its efforts violating what's in the contract. The other reason might be our members are frustrated with the inept grievance process that is in place. Why is it so important we continue to file grievances on contract violations? Because grievances are one of the best forms of documentation, we can reference during the next contract negotiations in 2023. It is extremely important to the next negotiation team to have as many documented contract violations as possible. We must never forget how this company failed on so many levels to honor our agreement. If the company violates the contract, file a grievance.

During the 2019 negotiations, Wabtec stressed how much it cost the business to move employees within the plant. They argued the loss of TOP, efficiencies, and training costs hurt the business's bottom line. The company put the cost at between \$5,000 and \$9,000 per move. Recently the company moved twenty-six members to building six. Three employees were in classification twenty-three were moved to building six out of classification. The company communicated they would remain there until at least October 30th. If you factor in the wage difference, for twenty-three employees moved out of classification for seven weeks. That dollar amount is approximately \$34,000. If we round off the cost to the business to move employees to \$6,000. That figure is approximately \$138,000, add the two amounts together, the cost to move twenty-three employees out of classification for seven weeks is \$172,000. By the way, building six is 6,000 hours behind and the company refuses to hire anyone into building six. This is clearly mismanagement at its worst. As you can see, this is just one small example of the money lost because of the company's misuse of Article XIV Temporary Transfers. Managers routinely abuse Article XIV to make their job easier at the expense of the company. U.E. Local 506 members and Stewards have filed numerous grievances on this subject in an effort to ensure the company respects our member's seniority and to bring to light the total waste of money Erie is experiencing because of the company's careless practices on this matter. If the company would put as much effort into working with us as they do working against us, Erie would be the profitable site it once was.

The next Step III meeting will be held on September 30th.

The next Step II meeting has been moved to September 15th. ⚡

**"If this discussion could in any way lead to me being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I request that my steward or union officer be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions."**

*(This is my right under a Supreme Court decision called Weingarten)*



# President's Report

By Scott Slawson



As we roll into September and summer is coming to an end, we are all looking forward to better days. The days when Covid is in our rear-view mirror, our laid off members are recalled back to work and our factory is full. Over the last several months we have been diligently working on the latter.

The Green Rail Locomotive Act of 2021 is nearing the completion point. There have been many pitfalls along the way and it has been an arduous journey to get this far but we are nearing the goal line. The latest development we reported on at last months membership meeting was the trepidation the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) had with our proposed legislation. Due to the high number of rebuilds Wabtec and Progress rail are handling, work they would otherwise be doing, there have been significant layoffs amongst their own ranks. They felt this Bill understandably would only compound their issues.

Shortly after our membership meeting last month, we met with the IBEW in an attempt to reach an accord that was beneficial to both sides. After much deliberation I am pleased to inform you that we have reached agreement on both sides and the new language is currently being drafted. It will hopefully be introduced by both Congressman Garcia and Senator Casey. Both offices are diligently working together to bring this to a culmination and get it into the Reconciliation Bill.

While talking with the IBEW we informed them this trend with Progress Rail and Wabtec will continue unless we can fill the factories with new builds. What we agreed upon was, for every three Tier 4 or better locomotives built a credit to do a "decked" rebuild to the Tier 3 standard would be issued to the rail carrier. The rebuilds that are eligible for the grant money under this program would be done by employees that fall under the Railway Labor Act (IBEW). In addition, additional grant money would be provided if the new locomotives are built in a unionized facility.

We are anxiously waiting on the new language and hope that all of our proposals make it into the new Bill. We will have a full report at this months membership meeting. ⚡

## East Gate Closed the week of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021



The East Gate will be closed the Week of September 13th for rail work.

**During this time, the K-Lot Gate will be open to two-way traffic from 5:30am to 7:00am and 2:00pm to 4:00pm Monday through Friday.**

Security will be positioned near the K-Lot parking lot to waive individuals into the campus.

Individuals entering / exiting the campus through the K-Lot Gate will be unable to badge in and out during this time.

The East Gate is scheduled to reopen the morning of September 20th.

## 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 814.875.6505

**CALL TO REPORT** – 814.875.4000

**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.nnig.org](http://www.nnig.org)



HIGHMARK – 1.800.811.0391

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

AETNA – 1.866.317.6989

E-MAIL – [aetna.com](http://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)

# VOTE

# 9.16.21

Please make sure you have your Membership Card with you!

## OCTOBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 618 MEMBERSHIP MEETING	14 STEP II MEETING (Tentative)	15	16
17	18	19 506 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	20	21 506 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 STEP III MEETING (Tentative)	29	30
31 						