

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2009 UNION REPRESENTATIVES

President's Report

By: Todd Kegley

The elections for 2009 are now over and as always the future is bright for our local Union. We have some new and younger Officers and Team Representatives as well as some seasoned veterans on our committee's. With the politics once again behind us it is time now to start planning for the next three years. I would like to take a moment to thank all of you who ran and lost and to those who chose not to run again, for without you our Union would be far worse off. For those of you who are new and who chose to continue representing the members of USW 9231 our challenges await us. I look forward to working with all of you in the years to come.

After conducting our first Union day meetings with the new officers we have restructured some of the meeting day activities. The morning will be President's report for the first 90 minutes followed by the grievance committee work in the morning. The afternoon will be dedicated to education and training. The first Executive Board Meeting was held with both new and former officers. Our goal for the next three years is to establish a budget for things such as charitable contributions and for training and education. I challenged the Board to thing "BIG" for moving our Union forward and to continue to bring solidarity to our Union. One of the ideas is to have a town hall type meeting once per month that would be an open forum type setting. We would want to bring the hall into the technology era by installing overhead screens or big screen TV's so we

President – Todd Kegey	Vice President – Wade Blaker
Recording Secretary – Casey Vandermeer	Financial Secretary – Sherri Collings
Treasurer – Jim Holbert	Inner Guard – Tom Franciski
Outer Guard – Mike Frey	Trustees – Randy Hennings, Tony Novello and Bonnie Tuttle
Guide – Libbi Urban	
Chairman Dispute Resolution Committee – George Bauer	Unit Chairperson (9213-01) – Chris Gessinger
CDCM/CAPL JAC Rep – Terry Mannen	EGL/CGL JAC Rep – Dave Luce
Finishing/Plant Support Rep – Tom Masepohl	CDCM Operation Team Rep – Russell Wise
CDCM/CAPL Mechanical Team Rep – Paul Rausch	CAPL Operation Team Rep – Ron Lantz
EGL Operation Team Rep – Gene Feitz	CDCM/CAPL Electrical Team Rep – Jim Alvis
EGL/CGL Mechanical Team Rep – Dave Luce	CGL Operation Team Rep – John Merkiewicz
Finishing End Operation Team Reps – Kevin Hutchinson and Dan Nimtze	EGL/CGL Electrical Team Rep – Marc Poland
Finishin/Plant Support Electrical Team Rep – Mike Frey	Plant Support Operation Team Rep – Matt Dowty and Bill McKee
Technical Group (9231-01) – Paul Bata	Finishing/Plant Support Mechanical Team Rep – Tom Masepohl

UNION MEETING SUMMARIES

By: Casey Vandermeer
Recording Secretary

United Steelworkers - 9231
Lynn Williams Hall
New Carlisle IN
4/9/09

Communications –

The Executive board would like to make a motion for 2 additional people plus Jim Pondo to attend the United Steelworkers 2009 Health, Safety and Environmental conference on 8/17/09 – 8/21/09, and to pay for lost time and expenses and registration fee of \$295.00.

The Executive Board would like to make a motion to donate \$500 to the Relay of Life for the American Cancer Society and if the company does not match the amount the motion will be for \$1000.

The Executive Board would like to make a motion to purchase a USW jacket for Buril Smith to recognize his service for Rapid Response.

The Women’s Committee is sponsoring A Flowers Sale from Habitat for Humanity. An e-mail will be sent out with the details. If you wish to purchase any flowers please fill

out the form and give it to Libbi Urban. The deadline to purchase flowers is Friday April 17th, 2009. You will be responsible to pick up your flowers. You can pick-up your flowers up Friday on May 2nd at the Sample Street ReStore.

Bill Carey –

Reported out on people that brought guns in to the plant and were discharged. Please remember and communicate to the team members not to bring any arms onto the plant.

Presidents Report out

Discussed the Business Review Meeting

All new team members are past their probation.

Todd wanted to thank the Election Committee for all of their hard work on the election. Nate Legard, Jack Wall, Rick Podkul and Bill Tuttle.

A motion was made to accept the election results and certify that the results were sent into the board. First – Floor, Second Wade Blaker – Motion was accepted and carried.

Todd wanted to thank Mike Pearish for all of his work at Dispute Chairman. All the new team members that were elected into a position make sure you are all at the meeting in May. You will be sworn in that night.

JAC update –

Discussed business outlook for May and June.

Cost Reduction Agreement expires on 4/1/09. More discussion is needed.

Training

Craft Assist

Operators redesign

Craft Trainees.

Staff Technicians position.

Contacting out

Management doing bargaining unit work

Computer technicians – management doing their work.

ASP & Floating Maintenance

What quantifies normal operations?

Volunteer Furlough

Rapid Response –

Update on Free Choice Act.

Rally at Georgia Pacific

Jobs for Justice

Chase Bank – does not want to help Auto workers.

Action call from the State – Do not cut un-

employment benefits.

Senate bill 300

Buy American Resolution

There will be a meeting at the Moose Lodge in District 2 and a speaker to talk about the free choice act.

Buril wanted to thank everyone for the union purchasing a jacket for him.

Buril will be sending e-mails with pertinent information out.

Safety Report out –

Health and Safety day will be Tuesday - 4/28/09 from 7:00 am – 4:00 pm. More information will be sent out. The Women of Steel will have an exhibit at the fair. The line will be shut down 5 turns.

Old Business – None

New Business -

The Women’s Committee is having a collection for Eyeglasses. If you have any questions, please see Libbi Urban. This will help many people across the country. Please help us in this worthy cause.

A motion was made to pay for 6 people lost time and expense to work at the union help and repair things that need to be done.

50/50 drawing – the winner was Phil Pieni-azek who won \$88.50.

Second drawing –

Mike Foster won but was not at the meeting so the money will go into the kitty for next weeks drawing.

Meeting adjourned.

United Steelworkers - 9231

Lynn Williams Hall

New Carlisle IN

5-14-09


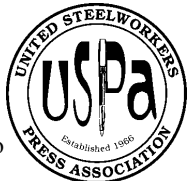
Communications –

Thank you cards were read from Ed Idzik and Dave Luce on the passing of family members.

Todd called a Special Order of Business – he then sworn in the new officers.

The Executive board would like to make a motion for \$250 for 50 tickets for the New Carlisle Fire Department to the Fireman’s

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Ball. We will purchase 50 tickets and Casey will send an e-mail out and it will be first come first service.

The Executive Board would like to make a motion to for \$260.00 to sponsor a team for the LaPorte County Labor Coalition on June 17, 2009. The stipulation was that the union members had to be at the meeting. If we didn't get a foursome we would donate \$250.00 for 5 holes. The four union members that were at the meeting and will be playing golf are Tom Franciski, Buril Smith, Rob Krause and Dave Gueteluis.

Presidents Report Out -

Todd thanked everyone that was leaving their old positions in the union and welcomed the new elected officers.

We had a moment of silence for one our Union Brothers – Tom Breese who passed away.

Discussed the watch program – Thanked Jim Myer who will be retiring for all his services.

There was a meeting Thursday morning with all of the new officers.

Real Services of St. Joseph County donation – Todd asked Jim H. and Sherri C. to do a report on the union finances and will report out at the June meeting.

The Executive board is looking at Capital improvements for the union hall.

Need to improve our participation in our committees.

Discussed economic issues

Facilities closing

Salary buyouts

The impact on Burns Harbor because of Chrysler filing bankruptcy.

GM

US Steel only running 2 facilities.

Local issues and the revised JAC Organization Guideless

Furlough

Operation Redesign

Outside Processing – Tom Voss and Paul Bata are working to get work back in house.

Starting next month we will be starting a Food Drive. Todd to send e-mail with details.

Summery Safe –

Jim Pondo has a quote for a Stainless Steel grill on wheels. More discussion needed.

Bill Carey –

Reported out on the WARN notice that was given to the Harbor Local 1011 – about 1000

people will be laid off.

There is Spring Shop in Hammond that had 138 members and is down to 38.

Chrome Plating Plant is not down to 50% of their work force.

Discussed the issue of the gun case where a member was fired because he brought a gun into the plant. Another issue has arisen that a member brought a switchblade into the plant and he was also fired. Both cases are in arbitration.

Rallies in Granite City

Hennepin shut down the company – they are now in arbitration.

Georgia Pacific now has a contract.

Discussed the issues of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Pension budgeting – the legal department is handling it.

Discussed the e-mail that was sent our regarding bridging time for anyone that was laid off during 1958-1999.

Safety Report Out –

Jim thanked everyone for their help on Safety Day.

Discussed issues with STD. If you have any questions please call Todd.

Rapid Response –

Update on Employee Free Choice Act.

Buy American Resolution Indiana passed it, all together 6 states have passed it.

Automobile bailouts.

Buril will be sending e-mails out with all pertinent information.

Good and Welfare –

Company is scrutinizing absenteeism.

If you need to go on unexpected illness or STD you need to call the 1083 number. An e-mail will be coming out.

Old Business – None

New Business – A motion was made to donate \$50/month to the Food Bank after further discussion the motion was amended to donate \$100 at this time.

The trustees did the 1st Quarter audit and everything was fine.

50/50 drawing – the winner was Paul Bata who won \$84.50.

Second drawing – Pete Mungia won but was not at the meeting so the money will go into the kitty for next week's drawing.

Meeting adjourned.



Contributed by: Jim Pondo

Emergency Response Team

I'm sure that even during this recession the event we fear most is a catastrophic injury or fatality at I/N. I know that Todd and I both have this fear. If we were to have one, what role would our Union play? Fortunately our local has access to the USW Emergency Response Team also known as the ERT.

The ERT is part of the USW Health, Safety and Environment Department of the USW. It consists of trained professionals to help support local Unions not only in the investigation of the incident but to also assist the families and co-workers and to provide follow up counseling. Samples of their functions are:

Serve as victim advocates

Coordinate support for victims and families

Act as liaison between families and the company and families and the Union

Help victims secure legal representation if necessary

Provide referrals to local therapists who understand the needs of organized labor and those dealing with loss and trauma

Assist in determining the root cause of the incident

Anytime an ambulance is on site I am contacted by security. Security informs me of the circumstances and I make determination if we have just experienced a catastrophic incident. Fortunately I have not had to make the next call but if I did this is how it would work. I would immediately call Todd, then one of us would call Bill Carey, our international staff representative, and the other would call the ERT 24 hour hotline. Then we would be on our way to the plant with the main focus of preserving evidence at the incident scene and gathering as much eyewitness information as we can while it is still fresh in people's minds. Please remember not to alter or clean up an incident scene until Todd or I get there. If the team member were at the hospital, our next stop would be there. Depending on travel, an ERT member would be here most likely within hours of our initial call and would meet with Todd and me when they arrive to formulate our action plan.

The call to Todd is one I never want to make, that is why I try my very best to educate team members on the safest way to do their tasks. But I can't do it alone. I need everyone's help. We need to look out for each other every day.

In Solidarity
Jim Pondo
Safety Coordinator



Brothers and Sisters,

We are continuing to follow the movement of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) bill. While there is some good growth in support of passing the bill we are not done fighting for it. Recently there were some high ranking AFL-CIO members that met to debate it with the VP for the National Chamber of Commerce, right here in Indiana. Also there have been several actions that have taken place here locally promoting the EFCA. There are four buses, going through 11 states and 32 cities to help raise awareness. Last week one of the buses visited Merrillville and South Bend. They are all headed to Washington DC for the final push in June. I'll keep you posted on any action that we get asked to take.

The rally that took place last month in support of the new USW members at the Wheatfield Georgia-Pacific plant had some very welcome results. The workers organized over two years ago, but had been unable to get a first contract with the company. After the rally, the bargaining committee met with the company, and I'm happy to report that they now have a contract! As the slogan goes, "we'll keep up the fight one day longer than the company is willing to go."

We have begun the fight to fix some of the problems with the health care in this country. Forty million Americans who have no health care deserve better. As we move forward with legislation to improve things, I will pass along to any and all actions.

The Indiana General Assembly passed a bill to try and make some improvements in the Unemployment Benefits funds being gathered and spent. I don't have a lot of details but a concern on the wording prior to the

passing of the bill was raised. At one point there was talk about redefining what a "Temporary Employee" is, and it was not very kind to our fellow brothers and sisters in the building trades. Once I hear definitively I will let you all know.

Lastly, as many of you know the USW and the UAW have been working together to help get the American car makers the help they need to stay in business and keep Americans working. Although there has been a lot of bad press for the United Auto Workers, saying that a lot of the problem is their fault, the USW has been in support of their bargaining in good faith and willingness to take concessions. As we have fought with them, we also are appalled at the actions of the administration to allow the companies to move MORE jobs out of the US, as their plan to cut costs. We need to keep Americans working and sending jobs away is counter-productive in so many ways. I will continue to follow this and report back.

In Solidarity,
Buriil W. Smith
Rapid Response

UNION MEETING
SECOND THURSDAY
OF
EVERY MONTH
4:15 PM

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could show movies or live web casts. We discussed building a pavilion on the southeast side of the property for gatherings and for the Labor Day picnic. There is also a great deal of discussion going on about construction of an ICD training facility on the Union's property. There are

plans drawn up and bids are currently being written. The money for the building would come out of the ICD training budget and not Union funds. This is an exciting opportunity for us to have a state of the art training facility of our own right on our site.

The future is bright for our local despite the economy that we find ourselves in. The keys to success are fairly simple, communicate to the membership, training for our officers and Team Representatives, increase membership involvement, and solidarity. That is the plan for the next three years, and now it is time to execute that plan. You will be seeing a great deal of activity to carry out our plan in the next months. As always your input is crucial to our success. Meeting attendance has been great these last several years and we want to continue to drive those numbers up.

Finally Unions are about tradition, last year we conducted a food drive as part of negotiations. Upon reaching an agreement with the company we donated the food to the New Carlisle Food Bank. Well summer is approaching and having spoken to the local food bank they have doubled the number of families that are now depending on donations to put food on their tables. Most businesses in town are conducting food drives to help during this summer. Our local is kicking off a food drive to coincide with last years Labor Day activities. We will have collection buckets located in the main office and by my desk across from room 235. We will also be collecting at the next three Union Meetings. We understand times are tough for all of us, they are even tougher for many families who are out of work. Thanks again and I look forward to representing you for the next three years.

In Solidarity,
Todd Kegley