



President: Bob Pelletier

Recording Secretary: Joe Paquette

NEWS BULLETIN MAY 2013

President's message

I personally would like to thank all of our members that took the effort and their personal time to come out and vote. We will be busy in the in the next four weeks with several issues, including Bargaining, Stewards elections and other plant issues that come with the summer months. The Steward nominations have been posted throughout the plant, and an election committee has been established and is ready for these elections at the end of the month. The steward election postings will be up until May 25th, 2012. This month's membership meeting will be on June 11th, 2012. Our last meeting had over 100 members which is a good thing for our local, and I would like to see the attendance continue to grow. We will hold a strike mandate vote and a strong **YES** vote will support your negotiating committee in working out a fair contract by June 24th, 2012.

Remember the strength of your union is the voice of your vote.

Negotiations report

We have been moving forward with settling existing grievances as per past practice. Throughout this process, we have found a few language barriers which we feel need to be addressed. Obviously our monetary issues need to be addressed as well. Financial personnel supplied by the Steelworkers will be coming into these negotiations to help guide us through the difficult calculations of pensions and benefits. We will be exchanging proposals with the company imminently and we will have a better understanding of the company's position at that time. This committee is committed to resolving the issues that have been expressed by our membership and our committees. This committee also understands that this is a tense time for all our members, but we want to give you our assurance that we are utilizing all the possible resources at our disposal at this time to be able to bargain a fair contract for our members. More updates will be made available to you as this process continues. We thank you for your support and solidarity.

Strike Mandate Vote

Soon everyone will be asked to participate in a strike mandate vote. This does not mean we will go on strike. Rather, it is a vote to show our employer that you support your bargaining committee and the proposals that were drafted and put forward to the company. It simply gives the negotiation committee more bargaining power when the membership shows strong support by saying **YES**, we will strike if we are not presented with a fair contract. The decision to strike still remains with the workers; there will be another vote once the company offers us a contract. You will be asked whether you accept or deny the companies offer.

Education

We have been in contact with several colleges and trade schools over the past few weeks and have meetings booked for early this month to develop unique and flexible course outlines to better accommodate our members. We are looking forward to offering new programs and are excited with the amount of members looking for further education. There are many courses available now, including Safety courses, first aid training, adult educational upgrades, computer courses and much more. Contact Joe Paquette or Mike Landry for all your educational needs.

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Media Package

A meeting was held with Union Strategies, the company that provides our web site, newsletter etc. The new glossy newsletter comes with an approximate cost of \$880 every time we issue it, but we have the ability to insert advertisements which can reduce the price and even create revenue to offset other costs to our local. Union Strategies will be contacting local businesses to offer advertising space and once this is in place we will be returning to the new format. Until this time, we will be continuing to use a similar format for our newsletters, with more information and news for our members. This newsletter will be coming out in the very near future. We will be including a Letter to the Editor section so that you can include any information, ideas, or events (charity drives, fundraisers, announcements etc.) that can be posted in our newsletter. Our Local's web site is currently being updated and many changes are being formatted now, and some changes have already been posted. Remember Brothers and Sisters, this is your newsletter. Check us out at www.usw7135.ca.

Union meetings

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 4:30 PM. It's important that members attend as some major decisions are made at these meetings and do require a vote to pass these decisions. Please come out to freely express your opinions on these matters and help make informed decisions. We will be introducing a new door prize in place of the jacket draw at the end of each meeting. We have access to Tiger cat tickets through the Hamilton area labour council which will be awarded to the winner at the end of each meeting. If successful, we may move forward with Bulldogs tickets in the winter months to help support local sports in our community. This also benefits the Hamilton area labour council's fund raising efforts by purchasing these tickets through them.

Financial Secretary/ Treasurer

Neil and I would like to thank everyone for taking the time to vote, and are grateful to all those that supported us during the election process. We would also like to thank Dennis Petrie for coming into the hall and helping with the treasurers books.