



President's Report

June 26, 2011

Local Elections

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who supported me in the Local Elections. It is a great honour to represent the membership of Local 1256 as President. I look forward to this next term representing workers to the best of my ability and to the fullest. Our Local Union can now move forward with confidence knowing this Executive will continue to do the good work we do as a Union on behalf of our Members. We will once again move forward with responsibility, accountability, transparency and responsiveness to our Members needs. I also want to congratulate again our newly elected Executive. I look forward to our term together representing the Membership. I would also like to say congratulations to any new reps elected to the various units. I would like to say thanks to all of you who stand up and take on the responsibilities and the giving of yourselves on behalf of the Members.

Collective Bargaining

The Local Union has just ratified two new agreements in the last week within our Membership. I am happy to report once again we have made gains and taken no concessions. I would like to talk a little about the bargaining process. This I hope will give Members a better understanding. First we seek out to the Members their concerns, proposals, and the improvements as Members they would like to attain. The Committee also has the Members fill out priority sheets. This is so the membership is able to identify and give us what is their most sought after gains of improvement. The committee will also review the current collective agreement to identify further changes that may be required. A package of proposals is put together by the committee and forwarded to the National Rep and drafted into a proposal booklet. We then head to the bargaining table with our Members proposals and priorities. The company also has a wish list. This is now a process called bargaining. The Locals function is to support the committee in their endeavors for our Members. I wish each Member would get the opportunity to witness the events at the table. Believe me when I tell you it is not Santa Clause or Mr. Rogers sitting across from us. It is the Company that is looking for cost cutting measures and concessions. Companies are always trying to find a way to financially reduce their costs. This is an opportunity to do so. Our Committees job is to increase or make improvements or just to maintain wages, benefits, pensions, and improve language changes. I have already congratulated these committees for the great work they have been successful to benefit the Members. You're an example of great representation. Your conscience is clear. You have done your very best on behalf of our Members. Thank you once again. I challenge each and every Member to review the settlements out there specific to their sector. Then size up the collective agreement that was just negotiated on your behalf. For some, you may have a different opinion. If you're honest.

Layoff's within our Local

We have a few units within the Local that are experiencing layoffs. This is very unfortunate for those effected Members and their families. Our latest layoff within the Local is a company that has overstocked inventory worldwide. This is very hard to comprehend when most companies count every last penny, have just in time inventories and carry low stock. Another unit has faced layoffs due to the high dollar and a poor economy within the United States. We also have another unit that sometimes faces work shortages continually week after week for one day layoffs. Compared to the last couple of years the economic turnaround is substantial but still fragile.

United Way

Again I was approached by the United Way to be part of their campaign this year. I have accepted the position of Labour Support Chair without hesitation. I would encourage our Members to give to the United Way. It is an agency that helps so many that are in need. It supports those agencies that do the good work within the community. There is probably someone you know or even yourself has used the funded agencies within the United Way umbrella. This year please think about giving to the United Way.

Labour Day

Again we are preparing for Labour Day in Hamilton. I would hope we could get your participation on this special day that recognizes us workers. We will be marching first in the parade along with all our other Sisters and Brothers of the Labour movement. We will then head to the park for a barbecue. Please join us bring your family. Enjoy some food and soft drinks and entertainment. I will post more info as we get closer to the day. Have a great summer you deserve to. You have earned it!

In Solidarity

Angus MacDonald
President C.A.W. Local 1256