

President's Report

April 2011

Brothers and sisters of 1256 our Local Union continues to be a work in progress with more progress to be made. We as a Local have succeeded and progressed in many ways. Quite frankly our Local executive prior to the incoming elective leadership took their positions in September 2008 ran amuck. Our work to correct so many abuses and set things straight has been a needed effort. Our efforts have been clearly motivated for the relevant benefit, first and foremost of our members. Whether it was reducing costs unjustly incurred by a prior Local Union executive, one way or another we have made significant progress.

Living up to campaign promises our actions have constantly been driven to return our Local Union to its members. Today negative perception is often held in the minds of the public including our members. Our work and motives must be aggressively determined for the good we all serve and share in. To consistently combat both negative and hostile views that erodes and undermines our strength of unity. In the end the employer again have their objective won against us as we suffer internal conflict and division.

COLLAPSE OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY:

Due to the global self manufactured recession our members faced layoffs, uncertainty, and a dim future. Today we as members still face uncertainty in our jobs with this global economy, but have been working steady for the past year. The greed of corporations and trade agreements that are so one sided are our biggest threat we face as workers. Today right wing governments and corporations that dictate and lay in bed together are labors biggest challenges. So many crises globally we learn of today through mass media capitalist's speculators that prey on every unfortunate crises people face, making huge profits without blinking an eye. The fat cats at the top are getting fatter and the workers are just struggling to get by.

CARING EMPLOYERS:

As of late we have had some employers that want to express to us how they care for their workers. If it seems too good to be true let me tell you it is. When they fire injured workers, when they terminate workers unjustly, when they deny benefits like STD, LTD, protest their WSIB claims, this really is not a

caring or concerned employer. This is an arbitrary dictator. I have already told one of these caring concerned employers you can show your love, your concern, for your employees at the bargaining table. "Show us" don't tell us. Wages, benefits, pensions, improvements that reflect a more sensitive caring employer that you may want us to believe you are. The Local Union has negotiated a no concession stand and has continued to be successful.

ELECTING GOVERNMENT:

Today corporations continue to maximize their profits. They are able to manipulate globally their agendas and control governments. The common women and man certainly do not benefit from this agenda. We need to elect governments that put people first. Negotiate fair trade agreements so we can compete fairly. Governments that promote the creation of good jobs invest in technology, green jobs, outlaw employment agencies that continue to rob not only the workers that work for them, but also the preventing of creating full time employment. We also need from Government a more worker friendly environment with regards to Canada Pension, EI benefits, WSIB, Health and Safety and support anti-scab legislation.

ACTIVE MEMBERS:

An active member is an informed member. Participation and education is second to none. "Remember fighting back makes a difference." Get involved become informed.

In Solidarity

Angus MacDonald
President CAW Local 1256