

Local Lodge 1529 Newsletter

August 2011



Editor: John Murray D49/2nd shift Next meeting is Sept. 13th. at 3:45 P.M. Visit our web site at www.iam1529.org

President's Editorial

As we move through another hot summer we are seeing some major changes in the facility. Earlier in July, 32 salary employees lost their jobs, which included a second shift supervisor. As a result the company is realigning the shifts by reducing 3rd Shift to between 40 & 50 employees so that it can be covered by one supervisor. On top of that the company is so far behind on its hour plan they have called back many of the people who volunteered for 60-day layoffs. Sales continue to be poor with virtually no end in sight. Summer vacation schedules are the main reason for the call back of employees on voluntary layoff. If sales don't improve by summer's end, and they aren't expected to do so, everyone can expect another staff reduction on the shop floor in September.

After a somewhat lengthy delay the company is once again rolling out more work flow centers, with the rest of Department 63 being converted over, to be followed by the rest of Department 47, another work flow center in Department 48, and Department 45. There are lots of changes taking place in the shop as machines are moved, as well as people moving into these new work flow centers. Unfortunately, the work load being what it is in many areas there will not be enough work flow positions to accommodate everyone currently working in those departments, and they will have to go where their seniority will take them.

As is often the case, management takes a closer look at issues such as attendance, productivity and quality during slow times, and we are seeing no exception this summer. Everyone knows what their responsibilities are, and it's in everyone's interest to make sure they abide by those responsibilities. The more productive this facility is the more likely that we will see an increase of work here in Sidney when this economy finally turns around. Will we see an end to outsourcing of our work? The answer, unfortunately, is no, but we can to some extent limited how much we lose to other countries by being as productive as we can be here. In the global economy we now live in it's tough to compete against countries where workers are paid substandard wages (by our standards) with little or no environmental regulations. I would urge ALL our members to write their congressional leaders and inform them how important our jobs are to this community and to the American economy. The National debt will never get paid down if everyone in this country is left with \$20,000 a year jobs!

My very first editorial dealt with working with each other in the workplace, and it seems it's time once again to discuss the issue. As a Union member there are certain expectations we all have. One is that we come together, as often and solidly as possible, as a unified group. Which such a diverse and large group of people this is often very difficult if not impossible. We all need to do whatever we can to work together, no matter how difficult it may be from time to time. These are very frustrating times, but we need to respect each other as we are all in the same boat. Treat others as you would expect to be treated yourself. If you have a problem at least try to work it out amongst yourselves, or through the Union, rather than running to management. It may save a lot of problems down the road, and may even save someone's job. Once an issue reaches human resources it takes on a life of itself and in many cases we are very limited in what we can do to correct the problem. Please remember as Union members it is against the fundamental principles of trade unionism to turn in fellow workers, and there are mechanisms in the IAM Bylaws to address such transgressions. Let's come to work, be civil to each other, and get through another day. It's really that simple folks. I know it's hot, I know the changes taking place in the plant are aggravating, but DON'T take it out on your fellow Union brothers and sisters.

(Continued from Page 1) In the near future all our members and retirees will be receiving information from the National Income Life Insurance Company. We were approached by this company, which is part of the Office & Professional Employees International Union, to offer their products to our Local's members. All our members and retirees are now covered by a \$4,000 accidental death and dismemberment policy at no cost to them or our local. Everyone will receive a package in the mail within the next month. A response card will be enclosed with that package, and if you send it back in a representative will set up an appointment to offer other products they have available. Returning that card, as well as participation in any other programs they have available are strictly voluntary, and you will still be covered by that above mentioned \$4,000 AD&D policy regardless of whether you purchase any additional coverage or not. For more information please visit their website at www.nilife.com.



Jessica Hoffman receives IAM&AW scholarship

Some Interesting History of Local Lodge 1529

General Vice President of the IAM Fred Connley tried to organize a union at the Scintilla Magneto Division of Bendix Corp. starting in 1941. At that time the workers belonged to the "IEA" which stood for the Ignition Employee Association. There was a vote to choose between the IEA and the IAM. The IEA won in the summer of 1942. Fred Connley tried again to organize in 1943. He was able to bring to a vote once again, and in May 1945 the IAM was the winner. The vote was IAM with 1327 votes, the IEA with 1033 votes, and no union had 53 votes. Local 1529 was chartered on June 11th, 1945. A Collective Bargaining Agreement was drawn up with wages of Labor Group 1 at \$.80 per hour and Labor Group 12 was \$1.65 per

hour. There were 86 job classifications with seniority and representation added into the agreement. There were no benefits at this time, such as medical, holidays, or pensions.

Women's Committee

The Women's Committee would like to say thank you to everyone for making our summer time raffle a huge success and to say that we couldn't have done it without all your help! The continuous support from all of the department stewards and fellow Union brothers and sisters helped make the raffle possible and for that we are extremely grateful. Due to all of your support we were able to raise \$1,000 for two local community food banks. \$500 went to the Walton food bank, and the other \$500 went to the Unadilla food bank. Both organizations were very appreciative for our efforts to help feed those in need during these very difficult economic times. The winners of the raffle were:

- 1st Place (Gas Grill) – Shawn Patrick
- 2nd Place (Picnic Basket) – Pat George
- 3rd Place (\$25 gift card for Great American Grocery Store) – Bob Wells

The Women's Committee's next fund raiser will be a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. More details will be posted on the bulletin boards. The Committee would also like to welcome Kathy Neil and Gwen Grow as the newest members of the Women's Committee. If anyone else is interested in joining please contact President Bruce Hodges, Vice President Chris Byrnes, any chief steward or a Women's Committee Member.

