

Local Lodge 1529 Newsletter

January 2011



Editor: John Murray D49/2nd shift

Next meeting is Feb. 8th. at 2:00 P.M.

Visit our web site at www.iam1529.org

State of the Union Address

I hope all of our members had a happy and safe Holiday Season. As we enter into a new year we should reflect on both the past and future.

2010 was a rocky year for everyone. Amphenol finally crawled out of the worst economic crisis this country has seen since the 1930's. We, in fact, did better than expected, with members being recalled at a time when most businesses were taking a "wait and see" attitude towards hiring. Many of our recalled members had been out of work for a year and a half or longer, and it was great to see so many people return to work after such a long absence. Many others never returned, deciding to move on with their lives in other directions such as employment elsewhere or continuing their education.

We ratified a new three year contract in October without the rancor and chaos we have seen in past years. While many weren't happy with some of the new contract's content, everyone was very pleased with the professional manner in which the process was conducted. The hostility exhibited at the 2007 Ratification Meeting was clearly not welcome this time around, and I want to thank everyone for how the 2010 proceedings played out. Hopefully we have all set a new standard by which these meetings are conducted in the future.

2010 saw the introduction of the Work Flow Center concept in Departments 47 and 49. The Company is pleased, in most cases, with the success of these WFC's. While we might question the basis by which they have drawn those conclusions, it's obvious to all that this new concept of manufacturing has created major changes in the Plant. The Union membership's greatest concern is, of course, the loss of jobs as a result of these WFC's. That same concern was expressed in 1990 when the original Cell concept was literally shoved down the throats of everyone in Departments 48 and 36. At that time nobody in either department was afforded the opportunity to post & bid on Cell jobs. Everyone in both departments was told you either agree to participate or go wherever your seniority and work experience would take you. Due to the Company's inability to allot enough time to properly cross-train people the loss of jobs that was anticipated never occurred. I've seen nothing in the past 20 years that would make me believe anything has changed that would result in a different outcome, so we shall see.

We held elections in December with several new department stewards coming on line. I want to thank our retiring stewards for all their hard work in what can be at times a thankless job, and I would like to welcome all our new stewards. It's good to see so many of our members taking an interest in the operations of our Local, and I encourage everyone who ran for office, even if they were not successful, to continue that interest and participation in the process.

Unfortunately, the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 saw the tide turn once again as it so often does here and we are back in a layoff mode in the Plant. Since December we have seen over 100 members laid off, and with new orders way down the future looks, quite honestly, not good. The company is not expecting business to pick up until April at the earliest, so the prospect of even more layoffs during the first quarter of 2011 is very likely.

As more and more people are laid off the concept of 5-day bumps has come to the forefront. Some have

tried and failed, some have been successful. It's important to remind members that the purpose of 5-day bumps as outlined in Letter of Agreement #13 on page 77 of your contract books is NOT to gain another week's pay. It was created to give members who have had significant training in a classification a vehicle to prove to the company that they are sufficiently trained to do that job. As such no one should go into a 5-day bump without being relatively sure they can perform the work they are saying they can do.

The beginning of the new year also saw the change of hours of work for many of our members. It's too early to tell whether the overlapping shifts have or ever will generate the productivity gains the company projected during Negotiations. I know it has been a very difficult transition for our 3rd Shift members, and many have changed shifts as a result. It's disappointing the company would change a work schedule that seemed to work just fine for 40+ years, including the years we made record billings.

Having completed my first year as President of this Union I can tell you the job is far more involved and difficult than anyone from the outside could ever imagine, especially with all the changes we have seen, and continue to see, here in Sidney. It can be an extremely frustrating job to say the least. When the contract has been violated, we have and will address it. Unfortunately, many of the more irritating changes we have seen are not a violation of the contract, and as such we can only point out to the company the error of their ways. Sometimes we are successful, sometimes we are not. Our members have endured more change this past year than we have seen in a very long time. But we have weathered many storms here in the past by staying united as a Union, and I ask each and every member to stick together until this storm passes. As I've said before, the only constant here is our members, who have endured change for twenty, thirty, forty, and in some cases more than fifty years and have outlasted the many changes that have taken place over the past several decades.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday Feb. 4, in the Human Resources Classroom

Severe winter weather throughout much of the United States has caused the cancellation of more than 14,000 blood and platelet donations since January 1. **There is a critical need for donors now.** To help make up this deficit, two more donors above our drive's goal (or convert one donor to a double red cell donation) are needed. All blood types are needed, but **type O negative donors can make the difference** between an adequate blood supply and a shortage.

The Red Cross urges all eligible donors in unaffected areas to make an appointment to give blood in the coming days, and those in affected areas to donate as soon as travel is safe. Stop in the Medical Dept to sign up a time that's convenient for you or call Kathy or Cat to get on the list!!!! Donations will help replenish the blood supply to ensure that blood continues to be available.

Let donors know:

- The need for blood is constant. Approximately every two seconds a patient in the United States needs a blood transfusion.
- Blood is perishable and has no substitute. Red blood cells have a shelf life of only 42 days and platelets just 5 days – they must be replenished constantly.
- Type O negative is always in high demand because it can be transfused to patients of any blood type, especially in emergency situations for patients with serious medical needs.

The Women's Committee will be collecting pennies throughout the year for Operation Merry Christmas. Pennies can be given to any Women's Committee member – Alice Ziglar, Star Calaghan, Nancy Hornbeck, Pam Gascon and Beth Dyer. Thank you for your past and future support!

Reminder: Anyone using the gym, PLEASE tell your supervisor the times that you are in there. If there are overtime issues because of this time, we will lose our privileges.