

Local Lodge 1529 Newsletter

March 2010 Newsletter

Editor: John Murray Dept. 49/2nd shift

Message from President Bruce Hodges

I would like to talk this month about harmony in the workplace. The workforce here at Amphenol is about as diverse as you can get. Our membership covers the spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, and as a result we don't always see things from the same viewpoint. That being said we all do have one thing in common... we all work at the same place. While we may have different tastes and likes, we all have the same very basic aspirations... the desire to make a good living, the desire to be treated with respect by our fellow workers, and the desire to make it through another day in what can be a very monotonous job. Sometimes we lose sight of those mutual desires and that's where conflicts can erupt. As anyone who has sat in this position will tell you, a great deal of time, greater than what should be necessary, is spent dealing with situations that have nothing to do with contractual issues. They deal with personality conflicts which arise far too often. Now, no one should have to work in a hostile environment. No one should have to take any type of abuse from fellow workers. No one should be belittled by a fellow employee. And no one is asking this membership to do endure any of the above situations. And yes, from time to time issues do arise that can't be dealt with by the parties involved. Unfortunately, a small problem can get compounded when it's brought to the attention of management, especially if it reaches Human Resources. When it reaches that point it takes on a life of its own, and we quite often have limited control of the final outcome.

ALL our members need to show each other the same basic respect they expect from others. It's hard enough to come in here day after day and deal with the issues that we are presented with by the Company... issues we sometimes have little control over. That doesn't mean you have to, or will, like everyone you work with. You just need to work with your fellow employees and show them the same considerations you yourself expect and appreciate. If issues do arise I would appreciate members giving the Union a chance to deal with them before things get into management's hands. It could very well mean the difference between somebody losing their job or not.

The members of this Union need to work as a team, especially with the most important contract in decades coming up. We saw an outstanding example of how much of a team this workforce can be following the 2006 flood. We pulled together and rebuilt this facility. It's something we are all very proud of. As we approach the end of the current contract we need to pull together again and show a unified front to the company. The powers that be would like nothing more than to see turmoil out on the shop floor going into the contract ratification meeting. WE ARE NOT going to give them what they want. The members of this Union will work through any issues they have, pull together, and be ready to appropriately address whatever the company presents this fall. Our combined livelihoods, in fact, our very futures, depend on it. We are all in the same boat here. We are all on the same team. We all want the same basic things out of life and our jobs. Keep that thought in focus as 2010 progresses forward. Come to work, do what's expected of you, respect your fellow workers, and remember we are stronger as a group when we work together than we will ever be if we work apart.

Visit our web site at www.iam1529.org

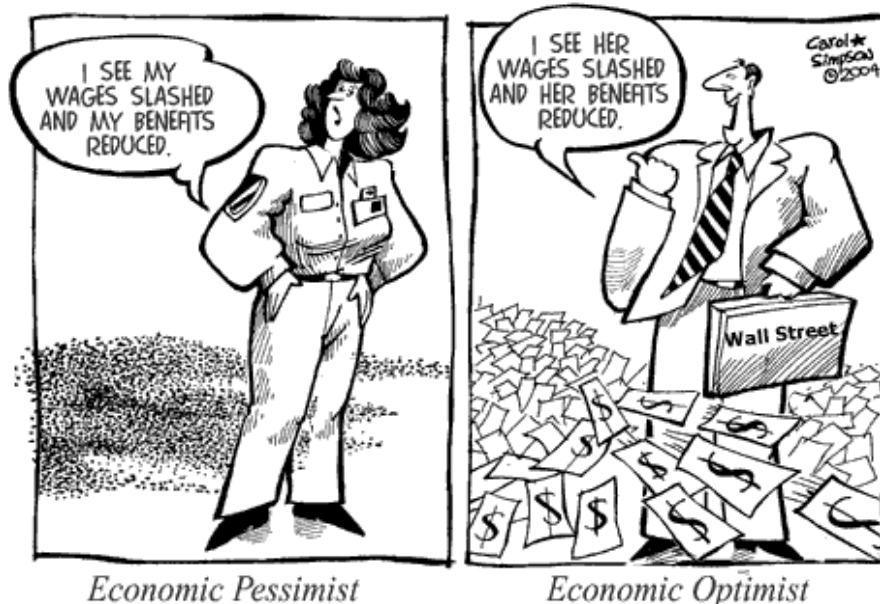
After seven years of seeking out the best, most interesting, union-made items in America, The Union Shop at the AFL-CIO is closing its doors, offline and online, at the end of April, and they're going out with a bang. For the next week, The Union Shop is offering 50 percent off every item of clothing in their online store while supplies last. The website address is <https://unionshop.aflcio.org/>

Use the code 2CLOSE10 for your 50 percent discount on all clothing

With the unemployment rate at its highest point in decades, the U.S. economy continues to struggle and shed much needed manufacturing jobs. The loss of manufacturing jobs can be tied directly to our so called "free trade" policies, which have facilitated the movement of production to cheap labor sites across the globe. The cheap labor model of trade was instituted with the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Congressman Gene Taylor is sponsoring legislation to take the U.S. out of NAFTA. Write your congressional representative and ask that he or she become a cosponsor of Congressman Taylor's bill.

Editor's note: To find the Phone numbers to your elected representatives, log onto this web address<http://www.capwiz.com/iamaw/dbq/officials/>

There are even form letters for very important topics already written for you. With a few clicks of your mouse you can send letters to your congressman and Senators.



April and May regular meetings of Local Lodge #1529
25 Sherman Ave.
Sidney, NY.

All members are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 2:00p.m. and Tuesday May 11 at 3:45p.m.