

Local Lodge 1529 Newsletter

November 2011



Editor: John Murray D49/2nd shift

Next meeting is Dec. 13th. at 2:00 P.M.

Visit our web site at www.iam1529.org

President's Editorial

We still have no word yet from the Company as to where the Plant is potentially being relocated, and there is a lot of speculation on the floor as to the final location. The only thing we are being "officially" told is that they are still looking local. The Company had hoped to make an announcement before the end of October, but that was put on hold so that numerous details of the plan could be worked out. Hopefully we will have some sense of direction where we are going in the very near future. I know this whole feeling of uncertainty has been extremely stressful to all our members, and that stress has manifested itself in many ways both in and out of work for all of us.

I want to thank everyone who participated in our letter writing campaign to Governor Cuomo. 700 pieces of mail went to the Governor's Office in support of keeping our jobs here in New York State, and in the Sidney area. Everyone's enthusiastic support of the project was acknowledged by Amphenol CEO Adam Norwitt who extended his appreciation for our efforts via HR Director Mimi Morgan. While we received no written response from the Governor's Office, I'm sure our efforts had an impact.

I want to wish everyone running for office in the upcoming Union Election good luck. Election Day is Tuesday, December 13, 2012. Hours for voting will be posted on the Plant Bulletin Boards shortly. It's good to see so many people participating in the process. This year we will be having pictures of candidates running for Recording Secretary and Grievance Committee at the Union Hall on Election Day to help our members better decide who they want representing them.

I want to take this opportunity to comment on the retirement of Connie Hoyt from the position of Recording Secretary due to health reasons. Connie has been a good friend of mine and this Union for many years, and she has done an outstanding job in this position. It's an absolutely thankless job that involves many hours of work each month taking care of our Lodge's records. Connie has fulfilled her commitment to the job in an exemplary manner for many years. In fact, I made the comment that she is like a member of the Whitehouse staff... Presidents come and go, but she's always there. Thanks Connie, for years of doing a great job for all of us! I know all my fellow members wish to join me in extending to Connie our thanks for a job very well done, and our hopes and prayers for a speedy and definitive recovery.

Connie will also be resigning from her seat on the Negotiating Committee, another position she handled with the same professionalism as she did Recording Secretary. As per the Local's Bylaws that seat goes to the individual who received the 6th highest number of votes in the 2009 election, Richard Rock. He will hold that seat through the upcoming year and the 2012 Election when all Officer and Negotiating Committee Members will be up for vote.

The Company has accelerated its creation of Work Flow Centers throughout the Plant in the past month. The successful bidders for the machines that comprised old Department 45 (now part of Department 49) have been chosen, as well as the successful bidders for Department 26. Interviews for the balance of Department 49 are now underway. There still seems to be confusion as to the process by which the bids are looked at. The Company places all bidders in a folder in seniority order and conducts interviews starting with the most senior applicant. Because many of these postings have resulted in 60 or more applicants submitting bids, there is no way logistically for the Company to interview everyone who applies. It would simply take too long. Through the Grievance process we have got the Company to agree that our most senior employees should be looked at first for these postings. If there are only, say, six opening for a job, then interviews will only be conducted until that number has been reached. While it has been the long standing position of this Union that seniority should prevail in the selection process when qualifications are relatively equal, the Company (under Management's rights) has the right to decide who is "relatively equal", and that's where we are often at odds with them on who the final selections are, and subsequently Grievances are processed to hopefully highlight mistakes that may have been made.

It's good to see people being recalled to work in these tough economic times. Many of those being recalled have been out of work for a considerable amount of time. How long these "new" jobs will last is unknown. Sometimes for those of us who have been working it's easy to forget we are in the worst economy since the Great Depression of the 1930's. ANY jobs created are a plus, as up to this point we have been seeing a net loss of jobs in 2011. It's easy to blame the creation of the Work Flow Centers as the cause of job losses here in Sidney, and that may be the case in some instances. To a great degree though, it's a simple fact that due to our anemic economy we are just not selling connectors, and that's a far greater cause of job losses. What the future holds for any of us is unknown. Between being in the worst economic conditions in 80 years, and a government which continues to sign trade agreements that encourage American jobs to pour off shore, we are constantly in a precarious position.

The Union and the company have jointly applied for TRA/TAA benefits to help pay for schooling for anyone who is laid off in future reductions. Our old application expired in October, 2010, and at the time we were advised we would be ineligible to reapply due to the fact the company had been in a hiring mode and there were no "new" job displacements out of the country. That situation has obviously changed and we are now awaiting a final determination from the U.S. Department of Labor on our application, who has the final say on whether we are eligible or not.

The Women's Committee will be hosting their Annual Christmas Party at the Union Hall on Saturday, December 3, 2012 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Santa will be in attendance to greet the young and old alike. It's a great way to kick off your Holiday Season!

In the meantime I hope all our members and their families have a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with a heavy heart that I'm announcing my resignation as Recording Secretary and my resignation from the negotiating committee. I have to resign due to health issues. I am willing to help my successor in any way I can. To all of you, please support the new recording secretary and negotiating committee member the way you have supported me all these years. I have enjoyed working with all of you.

Stay Strong ..Stay United. Thank you all again.

Sincerely,

Concetta P. Hoyt (Connie)

Women's Committee Information

We raised over \$800.00 from the Cystic Fibrosis spaghetti dinner. It was very successful. All proceed went to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. We are having a Christmas party for the kids again this year. The time and date is 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Dec. 3rd at the union hall. Presents can be dropped off at the union office or to any women's committee member by December 2nd. We will also be starting "Operation Merry Christmas". We are collecting pennies.

Nominees for Election

Recording Secretary

Alice Ziglar
Toni Shelton
John Murray

2nd Shift Chief Steward

James Dalton III
Bruce Neumann
Frank Ross

Grievance Committee

John Warren
David Kline
Beth Dyer
Jeffery Jones
Mike Knapp
Alice Ziglar
Toni Shelton
Richard Rock
Steven Kozlowski
Christopher Cornish
Terry Cannon
Greg Bales
Reginald Cole
William Walker
Christopher Byrnes
Corey Dean
Dennis Larry

1st Shift Department Steward, Dept. 32

Justin Youngs
Justin Cowen

1st Shift Department Steward, Depts. 35-54-56-59-63-57

Alice Ziglar
Jennifer Thies

1st Shift Department Steward, Depts. 36-26-F4

Terry Cannon
Danny Youngs

1st Shift Department Steward, Dept. D9

Gerald Marmet
James A. Meek

2nd Shift Department Stew- ard, Depts. 52-41-G6-G9

Lona Hartwell
Linda Gransbury
Bill Race

2nd Shift Department Stew- ard, Dept. 37

Mike Knapp
Brian Bancroft

2nd Shift Department Stew- ard, Dept. 49

Barry Rowe
Gregory Bales
April Berg

2nd Shift Department Stew- ard, Dept. 32

Corey Kittle
Brad Larsen

3rd Shift Department Stew- ard, Depts. 37-36-26-35-22- H5-G9-F4-E7-E6-E4-E3-E2- E1-D9-D8-D4-C5

Marty Morgan
Stephen Dine

Our web site has lots of new information. You'll find our Local Lodge's By-Laws, company job postings direct from the Human Resource Department, winning bidders for past job postings, information on elections, pictures of our elected and appointed Union Officials, articles, past newsletters, and lots of good links.

Check it out at www.iam1529.org