

Local Lodge 1529 Newsletter

October 2011



Editor: John Murray D49/2nd shift

Next meeting is Nov. 8th. at 3:45 P.M.

Visit our web site at www.iam1529.org

President's Editorial

Well it's been quite a month for everyone at Amphenol as the second flood to wreak havoc on the community in five years shut down operations on Thursday, September 8, 2011. Many of our members also suffered personal losses at their homes and homes of family members. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those individuals who suffered such losses.

As a result of this latest flood Amphenol made the decision they must be able to guarantee their customers that such an event can never delay shipments of product again, and they have started looking to relocate the Plant to higher ground. This decision was made when it became painfully obvious that no government agencies would be coming forward with any funding that would make the facility "flood-proof". The age of the Plant and the associated costs in maintaining and operating it also helped make the decision to move. The big question is where, and when. The Company has acknowledged it is looking local, and has investigated over a dozen locations to date. It is the Company's stated position that this is not a ploy to get rid of the Union and the Collective Bargaining Agreement we work under and it has also stated they are trying to find a location close enough to Sidney so that the current workforce can maintain their employment with the Company with a minimal impact on their ability to do so. They have stated they recognize the skilled workforce they currently have and do not want to lose it. All we can do at this point is wait and see what the final decision is on where we are going.

"Normal" operations resumed on Monday, October 10th as scheduled, and although many machines in departments like 49 are still under repair, it is simply remarkable that we were able to bounce back as quickly as we have. This is due to the hard work of over 500 of our members and salary personnel who did an outstanding job returning the facility to operating condition. It shows what we can accomplish as a team when we all can see the same identifiable goal and have a clear direction on how to achieve it. Everyone who participated deserves a resounding round of applause for a job well done.

As we get back to normal operations the job description language of the contract that was suspended is now back in effect and anyone working outside of their classification will be entitled to the higher wage depending on where and what they are working. Attendance will also be addressed as it would be under normal operations. Attendance, including on the weekends if mandated, is no longer voluntary and you are expected to be at work. It's safe to say that with the high level of delinquencies we now have getting time off will be especially difficult unless it was prearranged before the flood.

The contractually mandated raise of 2.75% is still scheduled to commence on Thursday, October 27, 2011. First Aid will be relocated to its previous location in the Plant in the next week, and food service has resumed in the cafeteria with a limited selection of food items available until the kitchen facilities in the building can be restored. Meals are pay as you go moving forward.

Payroll and Human Resources will be relocated from Pearl Street and the old cafeteria building to an office near the former exercise room in the Plant within the next week.

Interviews for the Maypress Work Flow Center will take place during the week of October 10th, followed by interviews for the former Department 45 machines during the week of October 17th.

Your Grievance Committee will resume operations Friday, October 14th with a meeting location still to be determined. Most likely the Committee will meet in the Union's in Plant Office which is undergoing final restorations.

We have seen many changes in the past four weeks, and there are many more to come. I urge all our members to be as productive as they can in the months ahead as we continue to make up for lost time providing product for our customers. The Company has many reasons to relocate elsewhere... let's not have poor productivity be one of them.

Report: China Currency Manipulation Costs 2.8 Million U.S. Jobs

A new Economic Policy Institute **report** finds the U.S.-China trade deficit has eliminated or displaced nearly 2.8 million U.S. jobs since 2001. All 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have been affected.

Of the 2.8 million jobs lost or displaced, 1.9 million of them were in manufacturing – representing nearly half of all the jobs in the manufacturing sector between 2001 and 2010.

The study also found that the trade deficit with China grew from \$84 billion in 2001, when China entered the World Trade Organization, to \$278 billion in 2010.

“Increases in U.S. exports tend to create jobs in the United States, and increases in imports tend to lead to job loss. Thus, a growing trade deficit signifies growing job loss,” explains EPI Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy Research Robert E. Scott. “The trade deficit with China is exacerbated by the currency manipulation. Because China has pegged its currency to the U.S. dollar instead of allowing it to fluctuate freely, the yuan has remained artificially low, effectively subsidizing Chinese exports and artificially raising the cost of U.S. exports.”

“But the impact of the trade deficit with China extends beyond U.S. jobs lost or displaced,” continues Scott. “Competition with China and countries like it has resulted in lower wages and less bargaining power for U.S. workers in manufacturing and for all workers with less than a four-year college degree.”

Labor to Congress: No More Flawed Trade Deals

Hundreds of IAM members and AFL-CIO affiliates gathered on the U.S. Capitol Grounds demanding Congress vote “NO” on the South Korea, Colombia and Panama Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). President Obama submitted the three seriously-flawed trade deals to Congress today, clearing the way for hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs to be shipped overseas – similar to the aftereffects of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). “It’s time for Congress to reject these failed, NAFTA-style trade agreements that have helped push this country to the edge of an economic abyss,” said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger at the Washington, D.C. rally. “We’re here today to urge Congress to stop listening to Wall Street and start listening to Main Street.”

Economists estimate that the South Korea FTA, alone, could cost the U.S. 159,000 jobs, like the one lost by IAM Local 873 member Yolanda Pillsbury of Wisconsin. Pillsbury’s job was shipped to China after having worked the job for 25 years. “We, the working people of America, need to have our voices heard,” said Pillsbury. “We need solidarity and fair trade for all Americans.”

In addition to the cost in jobs, Buffenbarger cited all three trade pacts for failing to include adequate human rights and labor rights provisions, while giving foreign businesses the ability to challenge policies that protect U.S. workers’ health and safety.

“The Colombia Free Trade Agreement carries 2,900 reasons why Congress should oppose it,” declared Buffenbarger. “That’s how many trade unionists were murdered during the past 25 years. Fifty-one last year, 22 this year and 15 after Colombia signed off on a clearly inadequate plan designed to curb the death rate.”

Buffenbarger and Pillsbury were joined at the AFL-CIO rally by United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard, Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown, Maine Democratic Rep. Mike Michaud, Illinois Democratic Rep. Jan Schakowsky and Iowa Democratic Rep. Bruce Braley. “They want to accuse us of being protectionists. Well, I’m for protecting American jobs. I want to protect our families. I want to protect our communities,” said Sen. Brown. “With an exploding trade deficit that has caused massive job loss, now is not the time to pass more wrongheaded free trade agreements.” “It’s bad for the economy,” said Rep. Michaud. “They might be fooling some members of Congress, but my constituents don’t want another NAFTA-style trade deal.”