

February 16, 2010

Newsletter - Navistar Unit
C.A.W. Local 127

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Time has passed since my last letter to the Membership. . . it has been even longer since I have been able to talk to my fellow worker in face to face conversation. It is difficult to offer well founded leadership without hearing your voice. I am asking the membership to write to the committee and speak to their personal situations due to the lengthy lay-off we are all experiencing. Our last communication with the membership, outside of Navistar Unit Meetings, on their thoughts, was last year when we sent out a “wish list form” for bargaining preparations. I personally would appreciate an update from all who care to write. Your ideas and your thoughts on bargaining, how the lay-off has affected you personally, and your candid opinions about where you want your leadership to take you in the future are the things the committee needs to hear. If you don’t want to sign what you write, don’t. The Committee can utilize this information and prepare another proposal to the Company in an effort to solidify a Collective Agreement. Please forward all e-mails to scottw@cogeco.ca.

The next Unit Meeting will be held on:

Saturday, March 13, 2010
9:00 a.m.
@
C.A.W. Local 127 Hall
280 Merritt Ave., Chatham

The e-mails from the membership that are sent on to us will be reviewed at this Unit Meeting, so that we as a unit can discuss, “where do we go from here”. Please attend if you can.

At January’s Unit Meeting there was discussion on the “Year and a Day” rumor that is so prominent in the community and probably one of the most frequent questions that comes from the membership. There is nothing in the law that states that the Company can begin operations, hire from the street and operate a non-union facility at the end of one year. Our bargaining rights do not expire just because a year has passed. This topic can be found in the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

Each Wednesday, the bargaining committee is still in attendance at the C.A.W. Local 127 hall for concerns of the membership and other issues that come into play for some of the members. The following is a list of dates and times we will be at the Hall:

February 17, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. to noon
February 24, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. to noon
March 3, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. to noon
March 10, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. to noon

There have been two “Plant Tours” in which members from both Local 35 and Local 127 committees have participated in, January 12, 2010 and again on February 9, 2010. Some of the items these tours have brought to our attention have raised some concerns and the Committees will discuss these issues this week and determine if grievances will be written or not.

The Company has been sending out receipts for those who are paying for their Health Care Benefits through the Company’s Plan. If you have not received a receipt for these payments, it should be mailed to your home shortly. If you do not receive a receipt, please notify Kari Howe in Human Resource at the Plant.

For those of you who are in receipt of S&A or LTD and in contact with SSQ, I am advising that all communication be done in writing. Although typically there is phone conversation with the provider, all correspondence should also be sent off in writing, requesting a response in writing. Documentation is everything! Without it many of the details may fall by the wayside or there may be no record of confirmation of a verbal information exchange. Be sure to have the provider, SSQ, put all of their questions and concerns in writing to you.

Many from the membership are currently receiving various responses from E.I. about “the 20 week extension of benefits” versus “filing a new E.I. Claim”. Jason King from the Action Centre along with myself and Sonny Galea continue to work together to get an answer from E.I. about how this issue will actually be dealt with. In some cases, the answers people are getting may be different depending on the number of hours some have worked to enable them to file an additional E.I. Claim. If and when we can get an answer as to why there are two answers from them on the same issue, we will report it to the membership immediately.

A reminder to those who have paid into the social fund, it is still active. If the circumstances warrant the use of this fund, gift certificates, flowers or bibles are still available. Please contact a committee member to have them fill in a “Social Fund Request Form”. All gift certificates will be mailed out and the bibles can be picked up at the hall. A message can be left at 519-809-4603 or 519-360-0637. Please include your full-name, Clock # , address including postal code, telephone # and the reason for the request in the message.

The CAW National Union and CAW Council annually offer a total of 25 bursaries in the amount of \$2,000.00 each. These bursaries are awarded to sons/daughters of CAW Members in good standing entering their **first year** of full-time post secondary education. Applications are available at the C.A.W. Local 127 Hall, 280 Merritt Ave., Chatham, ON, 519-354-3450. Applicants should submit their completed application to CAW

National Office in Toronto, post marked no later than April 16, 2010. The deadline is April 30, 2010.

H.J. Heinz Company of Canada Ltd., 85 Wilkinson Drive, Leamington, ON, is open to members of our Local from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (Monday thru Wednesday) and 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. (Saturdays) on the following dates:

April 6,7,10, 12, 13, 14 and 17, 2010

August 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 21, 2010

November 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 24 and 27, 2010

Payment is made by debit card only.

Some among us have exhausted their E.I. benefits, and for others this date is approaching quickly. Please utilize your resources. Speak to those at the Action Centre. Consider further education. If possible, obtain employment either part-time to utilize the remainder of your E.I. benefits to their fullest potential or to utilize additional hours for another claim. If opportunity comes knocking, take it. A temporary solution is better than no solution at all. I do not make these statements to create fear or distention in any of the membership. I make these statements because I cannot give an answer as to when our situation will change. These are the frank realities of the tough economic times we live in today! The high Canadian dollar and poor market conditions say that it may be awhile longer before any of us go back to work for Navistar! Treat this lay-off as any other that most of us have experienced at Navistar by doing what you need to do to take care of your families.

In Solidarity,

Cathy Wiebenga - Plant Chairperson
C.A.W. Local 127
Navistar Unit