

NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127

www.cawlocal127.ca



April/May 2010

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL

I would like to start with a well deserved congratulations to the membership and leadership of the former Daymond Unit, now called Dajcor. They ratified a new agreement 100% on May 3rd, 2010.

Through the determined efforts of all, we have made history. To re-open a facility that was destined to be auctioned off and essentially abandoned to stopping the auction, finding and working with a new investor, to talking and developing a relationship with the creditors and most importantly to make sure that nothing left the facility.

We could have only wished for such an outcome on November 23, 2009. We will be the benchmark for any other facility that goes through this type of activity in the future.

I want to personally thank Brothers Terry Johnston, Brian Massender, Don Carr, Gary Kennedy, Barry Gillett, Richard Laverty, Jason King (Adjustment Centre) and of course the entire membership for their steadfast support. A special thank you to Brother Joe McCabe, who despite some health concerns played such an inspirational role. Well done to all.

Bargaining:

- *Congratulations to Woodbridge/Blenheim, they ratified a new three-year agreement 95%. I want to thank Sister Brooke Bellamy and her committee on an outstanding job bargaining. This facility is positioned very well for the future.*
- *Congratulations to Sister Cheryl Gibson and her committee (Ventra). They bargain a new three-year agreement and ratified it 100%. Again a great job bargaining in such a tough environment.*
- *1st Student Busline (Chatham & Wallaceburg). We are currently in bargaining with these two units.*

Political Action

- *Thank you to everyone who attended the April 28th Day of Mourning.*
- *I had the opportunity to speak at an event sponsored by the Ontario Health Coalition. This was about hospitals in Rural Ontario.*
- *Brother Johnston and myself nominated our Local for the Annual Chatham-Kent Labour Appreciation Award. We felt that the work of our members, our commitment to those most vulnerable and the activism of our Local makes us a good candidate for this award.*
- *Thanks to everyone who attended the 1st Annual Family Fest on Saturday, April 17 that was co-sponsored by our Local. This was a huge success.*
- *I attended a Presidents Conference on April 27- 29th in Port Elgin. It was a very good opportunity to discuss local issues with other Presidents across our country. We discussed the possibilities of mergers, building solidarity, working together more than ever.*
- *On the heels of that conference, I along with other leadership of our Local attended an Auto Parts Meeting; bringing the leadership of not only our local, but others together to talk about the devastation in the parts sector. We talked about rebuilding through organizing, again working together and going forward.*
- *I would like to thank Brothers Aaron DeMeester and Joe Hannon for joining with me on April 19th, 2010 in London to bring support from our Local to help bring forward pension*

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reform. Jim Flaherty was in London that day and we joined with about 150 + members to support this very important initiative.

- We have many openings in our standing committees, I will be posting notices in the workplaces very shortly. I would encourage people to please get involved.

- Thanks to Jason King, as he and I volunteered some hours on May 5th, 2010 for McHappy Day. Why did we do this? #1 – proceeds went to the Women's Shelter, an initiative that our Local continues to support. And #2 to help raise our profile in the community.

- I attended Mayor Hope's state of the Municipality breakfast address on May 12. He spoke on a variety of issues, but one issue that stuck out was his words on how organized labour (especially our Local) is working for our members and working with private businesses.

Sale of the Hall:

- Our pending offer, that was set to close was cancelled because one of the investor passed away.

- So, as we continue our quest. I would ask our members to frequent our facility and utilize it as much as possible as it is extremely difficult to sell our hall in this market. Brother Johnston and myself continue to monitor our finances daily.

Organizing:

- 1) Dana: we are very close to hopefully closing this drive. We are three years into an organizing drive.
- 2) Dresden Casino – I continue to meet and have dialogue with some workers in this facility.

I have received 4 – 5 other calls from different workplaces and continue to work with these folks as we try to establish an inside committee. These are too premature at this point, but I will continue to work with them.

Adjustment Centre

- To our laid off members: Please take advantage of the work that Jason King and all of the peer helpers continue to give. They are located at 462 Riverview Drive, and their number is 519-360-9595.

Closing Thoughts:

- What an eventful few months in our Local.

I want to thank everyone for all the discussions that I have with all of our members in their respective workplaces and across our community as I see them. Feel good for the work that has been done and feel good for the activism that is alive and well in our Local.

Until Next Month:

Please remember that Fighting Back Makes a Difference.

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I remain, in solidarity,

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