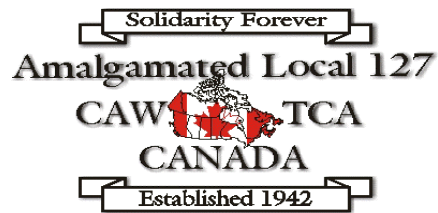


NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127



December, 2008

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL

Accurcast: (Local 351)

As per the last newsletter (Oct/Nov) Local 351 have requested a merger with us. On Saturday, November 29th, Brothers Rob Kerrigan, Jeff McFadden and myself attended their Unit meeting in Wallaceburg to talk to their membership about the possibility of a merger.

I spoke with Brother Ken Lewenza on Friday, November 28th and Brother Jim O'Neill on Friday, December 5th about the process of a merger. Watch for a meeting to be called in January, 2009.

Bargaining:

Congratulations to Daymonds who ratified a new agreement December 7th by 89%. Great job by Brothers Rob Kerrigan; Gary Kennedy; Barry Gillette and Sister Judy Reaume. These negotiations were done under the toughest environment and pressure. Well done!

We are going into bargaining with the following units:

- Riverview - open Monday, January 12th, 2009
- First Student (Chatham & Wallaceburg) open Monday, January 26th, 2009
- Versa Cold – still working on a date.

* Please be advised, we may need our Flying Squad Activists, Retirees and Leadership ready to support our committees if needed.

Organizing:

- 1) We are still working on the Dana Drive.
- 2) Advantage Engineering – December 8, 2008. Unfortunately we lost the vote 29 against; 25 support. We were able to segregate six votes. We originally won the vote, but there were 11 votes that we wanted to be segregated. We thought that these were company officials. The good news is that we can and will work with our in-plant committee again next year.

Meetings:

- On Thursday, December 11th, Brothers Kerrigan; Larry Duquette; Jim Witherow, myself and Brothers Byrne and O'Donnell meet with MP Dave VanKesteren. We talked about:

- 1) the need for E.I. reform
- 2) the recent announcement of Navistar's intention to layoff and if they are meeting the Federal and Provincial government's expectations.
- 3) the recent announcement of Arvin-Meritor's decision to close the Tilbury's facility.
- 4) the rash of imports that is crushing our manufacturing sector.
- 5) how the Government does not have the right to shut down parliament when we are at the worst job loss in a month (70,000) since 1982.
- 6) to hold this member of parliament for the acts of his government and for the issues that we meet with him on a monthly schedule.

Petitions:

- We are in the middle of a CAW wide petition supporting emergency, E.I. measurers.

Please take a moment and support this – your chairperson will have a copy of this petition in your workplace.

Poor Boy Luncheon:

- Congratulations to everyone who attended and supported this year's event that was held on Friday, November 28th as of writing, the numbers are still coming in, but I believe it is going to be close to \$2,000.00.

Once again, thanks to Brother Ken Neville, Sister Lori Kelly and everyone who volunteered for another job well done.

WAYS:

Thank you to all who helped support this year's campaign. On Friday, December 12, 2008 we dropped off \$1800.00 worth of toys for WAYS (Western Area Youth Services) Thank you to Bro. Kerrigan, Sis. Chantal Crow, the Community Services Committee, the chairs who helped support this initiative and all the volunteers. Again, well done.

Open House:

- As we have been making details, we have secured Brother Lewenza as our guest speaker, but we will also have our Social & Co-alition friends present. Talking to Mike Byrne (President Chatham-Kent Labour Council) we will tie our open house with a demonstration in front of MP VanKesteren's office and give him the petitions for Employment Insurance measures to go to Parliament.
- Please make the time to attend this rally, followed by our open house.

CAW Council:

- Our elected delegates attended the C.A.W. Council on October 3rd – 7th in Toronto. It was a very busy Council from the issues that we face in manufacturing (the IPS (Independent Parts Supplier), we gave a report on the state of our local.
- On Friday and Saturday, the Council elected a new slate of elected officers, talked and debated on Brother Lewenza's recommendations, and his report.
- I want to thank all of the elected delegates who attended and participated.

Windsor Meeting:

- We meet on November 27th in Windsor at the Casino with all of the leadership from Chatham-Kent, and Windsor/Essex.
- Our Leadership from all of the facilities were present. Brother Lewenza spoke about our position on why a worker's wages and benefits are not the problem in an industry where market share is the sole culprit. Thanks to all the leadership who put their issues aside for a day to hear our National Union address these issues in these very trying times.
- On Friday, December 12th, I attended a meeting at Local 195. President Jerry Farnham had requested a meeting with his chairs from his Local. Due to the support that we have received in the past, I agreed to go down and speak to his leadership and give a report that was Chatham-Kent specific. Local 195 leadership thanked our Local and once again committed their support for us if it is ever needed.

Closing Thoughts:

Brother Johnston and myself want to thank everyone for their support during this last 6 months as we assumed our positions and began to go to work for our members and community.

As this year draws to a close, I want to personally thank the Membership, the Leadership and Retirees of our great Local for the renewed hope that I see when I go into the different work places, meetings and see our members in the community. We are going through what can only be described as troubling and demanding times. Our Union has been through tough times before, and we will bounce back. Please take this time off and spend it with family and friends.

We will continue to help, challenge, inspire and lead our Membership into 2009. I wish you and your family all the best in the holiday season and look forward to working with everyone in the New Year.

In solidarity,

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