

NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127

www.cawlocal127.ca



May, 2009

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL

I would like to welcome to Local 127, the Membership of Penske.

On Friday May 15th, 2009, the Penske Membership voted 78% in favour of joining the C.A.W. Congratulations to all and I would like to wish Brother Chad Sykes all the best as he was elected as interim Chairperson. I look forward to working with the leadership and membership of this Unit.

Thanks to everyone who attend this year's April 28th "Day of Mourning" events. This year, we unveiled the monument dedicated to those members who were injured or killed on the job. Thank you to all of the different labour affiliates who kindly donated to make this monument come about.

On a related matter, I would also like to send our best wishes to Sister Alice LeBlanc (wife of Romeo) who also saw the unveiling of a bench in Romeo's memory.

On Friday, May 1st, I attended the Labour Council Annual Awards sponsored by the United Way. I was again honoured to present Alice LaBlanc this year's award as a "Builder". Our Local has had an incredible amount of activists come through the rank and file, and Brother LeBlanc was definitely one of them.

Bargaining:

Meritor: *I want to congratulate the leadership and membership of Meritor who ratified a new agreement with a \$8 million investment on May 28th (76%). This was done with incredible vision and passion. This type of commitment is absolutely unprecedented in today's environment. The word historic seems to come to mind. Again, congratulations to Brother Woodrow, his committee and membership.*

AP Plasman: *Congratulations to the leadership and membership of AP Plasman who ratified a new three-year agreement on June 6th (82%). I want to personally thank Sister Nolan and her Committee for all of the hard work and passion that was included in this round of bargaining. Some highlights are wage increases in years 2; and 3 and pension increases.*

Riverview Gardens: *We continue to bargain with this Unit.*

*We were going to have an information picket back on February 26th. We cancelled it because we were able to secure bargaining dates in April. It has now been three months of bargaining and it is starting to look like we may have to set a date for another information picket; but this time we will **not** cancel it. We have the right to fair and honest bargaining without interference and that is what we want to accomplish.*

At this point of writing, I am securing a date with the Mayor to further discuss bargaining with Riverview.

Again, a thank you to Sister Harris and her Committee who are working on behalf of their membership, and I will inform the membership of any update on this.

Navistar: *As the membership is aware, we have started bargaining with this unit. Sister Wiebenga called a strike vote for Monday, May 1st. Thanks to the membership for their solid backing of their committee. This will be a tough set of negotiations and if needed, I will be calling on everyone for their support if needed.*

There has been a special meeting called for Thursday, June 11th, 2009 members of Navistar (Locals 127 & 35) to see a pension presentation from Brother Jeff Wareham at 4:45 pm.

(over)

Organizing:

- 1) Chatham-Kent Health Alliance – ongoing.
- 2) Dana – ongoing
- 3) OLG slots (Dresden) – very early stages in trying to secure the confidence of the workforce.

Sisters and Brothers, if you know any friends, family, neighbours, etc in these workplaces, please call the hall. We need to make as much contacts as possible as we move our Local closer to represent each one of these workplaces.

Local 127 Action Centre:

Thanks to Brother Jason King and all of his peer supporters and volunteers on an excellent Grand Opening on Friday May 22nd.

To those members who may be laid off or are currently laid off, please drop by the Action Centre. It is open to all 127 members. The address is 462 Riverview Drive. Telephone: 519-360-9595.

Rick Kitchen CAW Memorial Tournament:

What another great turnout on Saturday, May 9th, 2009. The numbers are around \$9,000.00 raised. Thanks to all the golfers, supporters and we will try and secure the Safety Village for a day to celebrate our contributions.

O.F.L. Caravan:

On Friday, June 19th, the OFL Caravan will be at our hall from noon until 2:00 pm. We need as many people to show up as possible and support this initiative.

This caravan is in support to put people back to work.

I will have all the information for all the Chairs in all of our units in the very near future.

All MP's, MPP's, Mayor and Councilors will be invited, and we will take a roll call that day to see who really supports bringing jobs to our community!

See you there.

Did you know?

- *since September 2008, Canadian banks have received over \$200 billion in Federal support.*
- *The total GDP (Gross Domestic Product) (value added) of the overall Canadian economy is valued at \$1.1 trillion.*
- *A major round of hospital restructuring and cuts is underway across Ontario. The Ontario Government's planned under funding of hospital global budgets means that 50% of Ontario's hospitals have experienced deficits (Mar.08 – Mar.09) and this situation is projected to worsen this upcoming fiscal year when 70% of Ontario's hospitals will fall into deficit (Mar.09-Mar.10). Hospitals are forbidden to run deficits and must create service plans to eliminate deficits. This is why we see services cut, moved and forced centralization of hospital services.*

Until next month! :

I want to thank everybody for the support, encouragement and activism that has been given to not only myself and T.J. but the whole Executive Board as we close in on a year since our elections

We have done an incredible amount of work, and we must also realize what we have ahead of us. Many of the so-called experts say that we have hit the bottom, the worse of the economic fallout is over. Brother and sisters, we can only hope and believe, but we will stand together when needed.

I remain, in solidarity,

AARON NEAVES

President; CAW Local 127

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