

NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127



October/November, 2008

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL

Accurcast:

I would like to start off thanking all the Executive Board Members and the Membership (active & retired) for their support for the leadership & membership of Local 351 (Accurcast). They were locked out on Thursday, October 16th. This employer demanded a lot of concessions, including a \$2.67/hour claw back of their wages plus Cola. He also wanted a 20% co-pay on their benefits just to name a few of the issues. On Saturday, October 11th, 2008 Brother McFadden and myself went to their information meeting. We offered our 100% support for them. On Monday, October 20th, they ratified a new agreement 90%. They were able to withstand a rash of concessions.

Brother John Leach (President) and Mike Ouellette (Chair) offer their 100% appreciation. They have asked us to offer them a chance to merge into our Local. They have identified to me that they will talk to us about this in the new year. We will obviously keep you informed.

Organizing:

We have been able to secure 54% of cards in Advantage Engineering. It is a 50 person paint shop that does work for Navistar and Honda. We were approached on Saturday October 4th, 2008 and started an organizing campaign on Monday, October 6th, 2008. On October 27th, went to London and made an application with the Ministry of Labour. We actively campaigned this workplace for the rest of the week. The official vote was on November 3rd. I want to personally thank Brother Giannakas for bringing this forward. He was asked by a member of his Unit about possibly organizing Advantage, and he brought it forward. Good Job Brother!

We have won the vote 24-23. We are contesting 10 votes that the Company wants to count. These are non-bargaining Unit Members. We will continue to fight to keep their votes out. I will be at the Labour Board on Wednesday, November 26th in Windsor (and Dec. 1,2,8,9, if needed).

We have received some more Dana cards. To date, we currently have an active drive on and we will continue to go into that workplace in the next week or so to try to finish this organizing drive.

Meetings:

On Wednesday, November 12th, Sister Cathy Wiebenga, Brothers: Terry Johnston, Doug Wright, Joe McCabe, Richard Laverty and myself met with Mayor Randy Hope, MPP Pat Hoy, MP Dave VanKesteren to discuss the outcome of Navistar's announcement to layoff 470 of our members. I would like to thank Mayor Hope, who I spoke with on November 11th and asked him that we needed to meet with all three levels of government to address what major repercussions this would have to our members, their families and our Community..

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I want to express to our Membership that in these troubling times, we would take this action towards your workplace also.

On Monday, November 10th, I met with all the CAW area Presidents to discuss this year's United Way Campaign. Given these difficult economic times that we find ourselves in I would again encourage our rank & File members to try to donate. This will be without a doubt, the hardest campaign in recent times.

Elections:

As we are all aware we have just got through the October 14th, 2008 Federal Elections. I want to thank the Executive Board for the decision that we all unanimously made last month in regard to strategic voting. Even though VanKesteren got re-elected we must as a trade union hold him accountable as the MP of Chatham-Kent and I believe that we will.

On October 23rd, Brother Kerrigan, McCabe, myself and Brothers Byrne and O'Donnell from Tilbury met with VanKesteren. We told him that he must be held accountable and he must address a few issues including some local issues and EI reform.

We will continue to make these meetings a regular event and will continue to have dialogue (good or bad) with him and MPP Pat Hoy.

Labour Council:

We held nominations and elections on November 13th for five (5) delegates for the Chatham-Kent Labour Council. These were mid-term vacancies to replace 5 members who have quit or retired. The successful candidates were: Jeff McFadden; Jeff Raymond; Rita Nolan; Dwayne Hoffman; and Tammy Nettleton.

Bargaining:

We are entering into bargaining in the next few weeks with Daymonds, Riverview Gardens and First Student.

Jim Lane:

Brother Lane was out for the entire week of October 20th to do a biography of all the units in our Local. I want to thank Brother Lane for the incredible amount of work that he and his partner do for the website.

E.A.P.

On Thursday, October 16th, we held nominations and elections for the Chairperson of the EAP Committee. I want to congratulate Brother Mike McGilvery. We will have contact information out to everyone in the near future

Manufacturing Matters:

On Monday, October 6th, the Meritor Committee and myself were in Oshawa for a meeting. We decided to drop off the boots for the final time to Jim Flaherty's Office. There were approximately 500 – 700 people there from Windsor to Oshawa.

To think that we were the first to actually do this and see how the idea moved right across this province was very impressive. Thank you to everyone who gave boots, their time and of course went to VanKesteren office to demonstrate.

CAW Group Insurance:

I was in Windsor on Friday, November 9th to meet with Representatives of Breckles Insurance Brokers to explain the benefits of our members joining the CAW Program. Please read the information that all the Chairs have and if you have any questions, please call the hall.

I have begun to canvass several restaurants, stores and businesses to look for some discounts on services for our members. (CAW discount) This was brought forward by one of our members to see if we can do something like CLAC does for their members. We will have this completed by December so our members can enjoy the benefits for the holiday season.

Injured Worker Coalition:

On Wednesday October 8th Brother Terry Scratch (1941) held the first Chatham-Kent Injured Workers Coalition meeting. Brother DeMeester and myself were present at this meeting and I would encourage any chairs to send anyone who may have interest in this meeting. It is going to be very useful for our members.

Poor Boy Luncheon:

Please make plans to attend this year's Poor Boy's Luncheon Friday, November 28th, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. With all proceeds going to Chatham Goodfellows. Thanks to Brother Ken Neville and Sister Lori Kelly.

WAYS:

This will be our 3rd year that we have supported WAYS (Western Area Youth Services) to provide gifts for the youth that are the most needy in our society. A big thank you to Brother Rob Kerrigan and Sister Chantal Crow for their continued support towards this service. If you would like to help or if you could give a gift, contact Brother Kerrigan or myself at the hall.

Open House:

As discussed earlier, we will be hosting an open house on Saturday, January 24th. I would ask the Membership to take some time and come out and enjoy the day. Our scheduled guest speaker will be our Nation President Ken Lewenza. Come out and see what your Local can do for you.

Closing thoughts:

In closing, our workplace continues to be under incredible pressures everyday and we continue to work with our employers.

With the Holiday season upon us please remember NOT to drink and drive, use Operation Red Nose.

Until next time, I remain

In solidarity,

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