

NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127

www.cawlocal127.ca



September, 2009

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL

I want to thank everyone who came out for Labour Day. Thanks to all of the volunteers, activists for your continued support. Most of us will remember the struggle three years ago to bring it back to our Hall, because of our commitment the argument has clearly been won.

On Thursday, September 3rd, 2009, I was at St. Clair College for the announcement of funding for their new proposed health complex. I attended for two reasons: 1) was to support this initiative; 2) was to remind our local politicians that we will be at their every announcement to remind them and our friends in the media that all is not well within our community. And also to remind them that they need to listen to our membership.

I also want to acknowledge all of those Local 127 members who supported our demonstration on Friday, September 18, 2009 to try to get the leadership of SWEA (Southwest Economic Alliance) to listen to us. As was stated that day, we do not have an issue with SWEA, but they must show us where they are as so far as a Procurement Policy and if they support our decision. It was stated by Dan Mathieson (Chairperson of SWEA) that they understand the dilemma of no trade barriers. We were eventually asked to come in. They let four people in. They were Sister Wiebenga; Brothers Brian Eves; Sonny Galea (Local 35) and myself.

We had an opportunity to speak to the President of SWEA Serge Lavoil, Dan Mathieson and the President of Fed Dev (Federal Development) Bruce Archibald. When fully developed, Fed Dev will administer one billion dollars over five years in the Southern Ontario Development Program.

I attended the Chatham-Kent Council meeting on Monday, September 14th, 2009 and will also be there tonight to support the United Ways Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee and the Organizing Strategy Committee that I currently sit on.

I would also encourage all in this room to take an active roll in this year's United Way Campaign which will be possibly the toughest campaign to date that I can remember.

I want to publicly recognize the hard work of the Going Forward Committee. I want to thank:

Jason Kearns; Mark Woodrow; Aaron DeMeester; Cheryl Gibson; Chantal Crow; Mike Dawson and Charlie Formosa.

- All of these members volunteered every hour and did an extremely difficult task in a relatively short period of time.

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- Again, as was asked for this Committee, this process of selling will start this week and the Going Forward Committee has just got started. As they will be utilized to view other properties if needed and other tasks.

Organizing:

We continue our efforts to organize 1) Dana 2) Advantage Engineering 3) Chatham-Kent Health alliance.

- I encourage everyone to please talk to your friends, family and neighbours in these workplaces and to those who do not have the privilege of Collective Agreement.

On Friday September 25th, 2009 I attended a meeting at Autoliv. I was asked to attend by the National Union. At that meeting, I had an opportunity to speak to Sandra Pupatello – Ontario Minister of Economic Development and Trade to remind her that her government is also responsible for what is happening in this economy and again reminded her that they can have an Inter-Provincial Procurement Policy (AIT).

On Friday, September 18th, 2009 I attended a Retirement party for Local 444 Financial Secretary Gary Parent. After 44 years, Gary decided to retire. Over 1200 people were in attendance. I passed on our best to Gary as he has been an incredible voice for those in the labour movement and for those most vulnerable in our society.

I spoke to National Secretary/Treasurer, Peter Kennedy on Friday September 25th, 2009 . Brought him up to speed on what is happening with the sale of the hall.

Before I conclude my report, it is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we must send our condolences to the family of our Brother who lost his battle, Gord Labombard. Gordie worked behind the scenes all the time, whether cleaning the hall in the early morning or baking beans for our annual Poor Boys luncheon, he will be missed by all.

I remain, in solidarity,

AARON NEAVES

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