

NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127



September 26th, 2008

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL

Manufacturing Matters:

Thank you to everybody who took time out of their schedules to donate their used work boots (shoes). We had a great opportunity on Tuesday, September 2nd when we dropped off the boots at MP VanKesteren's office. I can only say how incredibly important that was. After a few face to face meetings with him, we gathered at his office and made him and his party be accountable for the loss of manufacturing jobs in Chatham-Kent. Again, thank you to all of you who helped and participated.

All Candidates Night:

- On Thursday, September 18th, our Local along with CAW Local 1941 and the Kent Federation of Agriculture co-hosted the very first all candidates night for upcoming Federal election. Cogeco TV was present along with other media. This was again a great opportunity to showcase our local and the activism that we have been shown. Again another success, thank ;you. PLEASE REMEMBER TO GET OUT AND VOTE. This is by far the most important elections for many of us in our workplaces. The choices are clear, and I fear what our workplaces, our communities and our economic condition will be if Canadians elect a Conservative majority government. Simply put, please take the time to vote on October 14. This election can only be about one thing ..JOBS!!!

- On Tuesday, September 23, I meet with Mayor Randy Hope. We talked about the need to try to attract jobs into our community. I will keep the membership updated as this project goes forward.

- We also meet with some of the leadership of Riverview Gardens (Deb Harris, Lisa McDougall) and spoke to the Mayor about our concerns in the health care sector.

- Thank you to those of our members who came out to city Hall on Monday September 8 to support our "made in Canada matters" campaign. We were 100% successful in getting this resolution passed unanimously. Once again, we can not underestimate what this could mean to our members and our community. We have not had much success at getting resolutions passed at council in the past. Thank you to our members, the Chatham- Kent Labour council and Brother Mike Byrne (1st Vice-President Local 1941) who helped me pitch the resolutions.

- Congratulations to the Sisters and Brothers of Comfort Inn. On Monday, September 15th, the Membership ratified a new collective Agreement 100%. Thank you to Sister Donna DeWitte who did a great job during this round of negotiations.

- Welcome back to our Brothers and sisters at first Student Bus. Now that school is back, please remember the service that they provide for our kids.

- Congratulations to Navistar for their 60th Anniversary in Chatham-Kent and to Woodbridge Foam (Tilbury) for their 25th Anniversary. All the best to all employees and retirees from these two units.

- On Saturday September 6th our CAW Constitutional delegates gathered in Toronto to witness another milestone: Brother Hargrove has decided, to retire and Brother Lewenza was acclaimed as our new National President. Congratulations to Brother Lewenza, as we all know, he is a great friend of our Local and one hell of a trade unionist. Well done brother!

- I will be traveling to Windsor on Tuesday, September 30th to discuss with the other CAW Local Presidents the upcoming Federal elections. As you know, as a National Union, we endorse strategic voting. As a Local Union, we have the right to get behind a candidate of our choice. As you know we will have a decision on where our support will go after executive board meeting on Monday, September 29.

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Standing Committees:

- We held elections on Thursday, September 18. Thanks to all of our members who shown an interest in these committees. Your advocacy work volunteer time and activism plays an important role in our Local. Thank you.

- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) committee . I will be calling a meeting to fill this on Thursday, October 16th, at 4:45 pm.

Organizing:

- We are still trying to organize the following workplaces.

- 1) Sobeys
- 2) Dana

Please remember – If you know anyone in these workplaces or any other non-unionized workplaces, please call the Hall @ 519-354-3450.

I will be attending a WSIB Conference on September 26; 27; 28. I will have a report on this conference in my next letter.

Labour Day - Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate Labour Day on Monday, September 1st; thanks to all the volunteers. Again, another successful day.

Poor Boy Luncheon – once again this year, we will be hosting a Poor boy Luncheon on Friday, November 28. Thanks to all of our volunteers and Brother Ken Neville who will be heading it up.

United Way:

The Good Neighbours Program: Deryl Hall-Giera, is looking for volunteers, if you are interested in helping out this great program please call Deryl at 519-354-0430 or email her @ deryl@unitedway.chatham-kent.on.ca

Closing Thoughts:

Even though we continue to feel incredible pressure at our workplaces, I am very encouraged by the newly found activism that we have shown in the past few months. Please remember that we can only be a strong, determined local union if we have a strong, educated and involved membership.

Thank you to all who remain active and involved.

Until next time, I remain

In solidarity,

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