

NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127

www.cawlocal127.ca



Summer, 2009

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the Ontario Federation of Labour Caravan "Driving 4 Jobs", on Friday June 19th, 2009.

Good Luck to all our members from the Findlay Unit. They worked their last shift on June 25th, 2009, as the company had decided to shut that facility.

LABOUR DAY - We will be hosting Labour Day along with the Chatham Kent Labour Council Monday Sept 7th 11:30 am to 3:pm - free BBQ 11:30 to 1:30pm.
please attend

Bargaining:

Navistar: - Deadline has come & gone, with no new talks scheduled..

Riverview Gardens – we continue to have dialogue with the Municipality and our membership.

Organizing:

- Dana - we continue to collect cards at this time of writing. This drive has just started into its second year and I am determined that we will get this unit.

-OLGC Slots Dresden – we are in the very early stages of this drive.

-Chatham Kent Health Alliance – We are making contacts within the workplace.

-Sisters and Brothers if you know any friends, family, neighbors in any of these workplaces, please call the hall. We need to make as many contacts as possible within these workplaces.

LOCAL 127 Action Centre

The centre is now up and running. It is open to all of our members who are currently Laid off. Drop by and talk to the peer helpers. The address is 462 Riverview Dr. Phone 519-360-9595.

Elections

Congratulations to Brother Rick Queenville who was recently elected Chairperson of Woodbridge Tilbury. We wish him and his committee all the best as they begin their term. Thanks to Brother Rick Reaume for all of the work he did as chairperson of that unit

Congratulations to Brother Chris Giannakas and Brother Lance Mercurio who were both re-elected in Martinrea Ridgetown and Dresden facilities. Again all the best to the elected body and I look forward to working with them in the very near future.

Congratulations to Brother Brian Massender who was recently elected Chairperson of the Daymond unit. We wish him and his committee all the best as they begin their term. Thanks to Brother Rob Kerrigan who served as chairperson this last term.

Congratulations also go out to Brother Ken Ecker who was recently acclaimed as Chairperson of the Versa Cold unit. Thanks to Brother Bev Rilett who served out the remainder of the 3 year term.

Meetings:

We have called another series of meetings to discuss the following.

- 1) Potential sales of CAW Local 127 Building.
- 2) Dues Supplement

These meetings are scheduled for Sunday Aug 30th, 2009 at 11:00am
Monday Aug 31st, 2009 at 7:30pm

Brother Johnston and myself have put a letter out to all the units explaining the process and why the Executive Board has taken this position.

I encourage participation for these meetings

Please remember to bring your Union Card for voting purposes.

DID YOU KNOW:

The debate continues around Bill C-23 (the Canada-Columbia free trade agreement) Unionized workers have borne the brunt of a violent government regime, making Columbia the most dangerous place in the world to be a trade unionist. Coupled with a terrible human rights record, we must continue to pressure our government to make sure that Canada stands up for human rights across this world.

Despite the view of our local MP Dave VanKesteren, our government whether at the municipal, provincial or federal levels can adopt a Buy Canadian Procurement Policy. Such a progressive stance would see our taxes used to help stop the loss of good jobs as the economic downturn worsens and the manufacturing sector continues to shed thousands of jobs, This is not a violation of Nafta, World Trade Organization(WTO) and the inter-provincial agreement or Internal Trade (AIT)

It is also the view of MP VanKesteren that the 360 hours to qualify for E.I. benefits which is one of the changes we asked for in January, in our meeting with him. Where we gave him the E.I. petitions which he presented to Parliament then voted it down. That he thinks that is too easy to qualify for Employment Insurance. Too easy, well MP VanKesteren only 42% of the unemployed receive E.I. at any given time

We were asking for the following changes:

- 1) 360 hours to qualify for E.I. benefits in all regions of Canada
- 2) Increase benefit duration to 50 weeks in all regions and provide an additional year of "special Extension" benefits if national unemployment exceeds 6.5%, paid from Federal general revenues. Extend E.I. (part 1) while a worker is in approved training.
- 3) Increase benefits to at least 60% of normal earnings, using workers 12 best weeks and raise the maximum. Suspend the allocation of severance pay. Eliminate the 2 week waiting period.

For close to 70 years, the E.I. system was the most powerful economic stabilizer which prevented deeper, longer downturns. Canada had a \$54 Billion surplus (1994-2007).

I would recommend calling MP VanKesteren on #1,3 and 3 and MPP Hoy on #2. They need to hear from our leadership and rank and file.

Here are their numbers.

MP Dave VanKesteren office 519 358-7555 email Vankesteren.D@parl.gc.ca
MPP Pat Hoy office 519-351-0510 email Pat_hoy-MPP@ontla.ola.org

Please have a safe and happy summer on behalf of Local 127 Executive Board.

I remain, in solidarity,

AARON NEAVES
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