



June 2007
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LOCAL 2911

Message from the President

Dear Members,

Thanks to everyone who could make it to the Strike Authorization Vote. Also, we appreciated all the good questions. I know I have said this before but I will say it again, it's a very stressful time during any contract but I think there is more concern this time. I think that comes from the fact that we are sending work out, still have people on layoff and still not knowing for certain about the finances of the Company.

We will get thru these negotiations and we will get you the best contract possible. The committee wants to keep our good jobs and benefits just as much as anyone else. Try to have patience with us when we get started on Aug 27th. We will keep you informed as much as we can.

We are in the process of updating our website (about time huh). Jason Arriaga has agreed to take that job over so we can give you information thru the web page. Also, the newsletter at some point will be posted there.

Have a great weekend.

Thanks,
Tom Burkholder
President of Local 2911

LOCAL 2911

Questions and Answers with Chairman Mike Coil

Q: Would a strong “No Strike” vote show we were willing to work with the company?

A: No, this would only weaken the Bargaining Committee’s position. Currently we are not allowed to negotiate with the company, but Mike has been having discussions with the company on local issues. This is a big change from before the vote, where the company position was, “we having nothing to discuss”.

Q: Will we actually be bargaining in good faith with a strike vote of “Yes”?

A: We will be bargaining in good faith, a strike is a last resort tool. A high percentage in favor of supporting the right to strike forces the Company to “Bargain in Good Faith”.

Q: If our local votes against a strike, and the amalgamated union votes for a strike, are we still controlled by the amalgamated strike vote?

A: Yes.

Q: If we go on strike, can we get our vacation pay?

A: Yes.

Q: Can we vote at any time for a strike?

A: Only the UAW International (Detroit) Executive Committee can call for a strike vote.

Q: Do we expect to have to make concessions in this contract?

A: No. We expect to get a better contract.

Q: In 1981 the union representation was SEE (The Society of Engineering Employees). What other locals were represented by SEE?

A: None. That’s why the switch to the UAW. A bigger union gives more bargaining power.

LOCAL 2911

FEEDBACK

The newsletter has not been posted on the Web at this point. If you know of anyone who would like a hard copy, Vicky Coil 461-1107

Strike Vote Results:

Local 74% Yes

Chain-Wide 91% Yes

It is an **Unfair Labor Practice**: if anyone from the company approaches you on negotiation issues. This should be done by the Bargaining Committee ONLY!

It is an **Unfair Labor Practice**: If anyone discourages you from filing a grievance, pressures you to drop a grievance, or punishes or harasses you in retaliation for filing a grievance.

Do you have feedback on this article?

We will print all feedback of 100 words or less in the next issue.

Send email to UAWLocal2911.org

Comment line “feedback” and state whether or not you allow your name to be used. Please include a phone number for verification.

SURVEY

- There were some members that did not get a copy of the survey. The survey will be available at the membership meeting on Aug. 9th. If you did not attend the meeting and would still like to fill out the survey please contact your committee person for a copy.

August Events

August 9th, 2007

Monthly Meeting

Vicky Coil is the UAW Local 2911 Recording Secretary

Matt Tesch is now a UAW Local 2911 Trustee

Negotiations start August 27, 2007

UAWlocal2911.org

LOCAL 2911

Posted Notice:

You probably have seen the Notice To Employees posted around the building. This was one result the Bargaining Committee Chairman's extremely successful campaign against the company's outsourcing efforts. This action grants:

Union Representative access to all TPM's, PIP's, and JPA's written since the last contract. This will allow the Union to determine if there has been any attempt to harass, intimidate or punish workers through these programs.

Union Representative access to all business planning through OPX. This allows the Union to determine how the company plans to use outsourcing from IES, MES, Diamond Force Engineering to take our jobs. By knowing this information, the Union can prove that the company knowingly violated the current contract. The Union will also know what the company plans for the future. No more empty threats of a "Slow Death".

The company did also have to admit to the existence the Directional Reorganizational Template, the Grand Slam Business Cases Analysis, and the Future Truck Operations Picture. The company also had to state that they do not intend to implement any of these plans. This admission further strengthens the Bargaining Committee Chairman's assertion that there are no plans to move Engineering to a new Engineering Center outside of Fort Wayne. This removes one of the threats the company has tried to use in bargaining for a new contract.

With this information, the successful resolution ATAA and TAA disputes, and the big MRAP contract, the Union will be going into the Contract Bargaining with a strong position and excellent knowledge of the company's current and future strategy. Congratulations to the Bargaining Committee!