

UTU LOCAL 161

So, what's been going on in the union recently? If you haven't been reading the website, we encourage you to do so. Check out www.utulocal161.org which has a lot of information available to you.

Major articles will be posted on the main page. The Chairman's Report section has some of my long-winded letters on it. You can e-mail the union officers with specific questions. We have various company forms available for you to fill out or print if you need. The Archives section lists letters from the past. Check out some of the issues that have faced us in previous years. This union has been very active and many of the officers have volunteered a lot of hours on your behalf.

Check out the website. Be informed!

Contract Negotiations Are Approaching

This fall, we will be working with the company to produce a Collective Bargaining Agreement. We have been taking the suggestions that you have submitted and are currently writing up proposals for the negotiating table. 2006 has been a profitable year for the company with an excellent ski season and a very busy summer season, as you well know. Many of you have voiced your opinions loud and clear. With all the better-paying options for drivers in the Puget Sound Region, we need to come through with some significant changes to our CBA. It is the union's wish that we retain the professional drivers and shop personnel that we currently have and attract qualified new hires for the future.

UTU Picnic a Big Success

On June 10th, Local 161 hosted a picnic next to the GLS yard. It was great to meet with many of you and chat about issues of concern. Thanks go to the set-up committee for all the preparation that was involved. Additional thanks to Rodney's mom for making her fantastic potato salad. A good time was had by all.

Thought for the Day

Each day before you go out to drive, expect to make at least 10 corrections to avoid erratic drivers, pedestrians or bicyclists. If you end up having less than 10 occurrences, then it was a great day! Keeping a good attitude greatly lowers your stress level and improves safety.

NEWSLETTER July 6, 2006

Monthly Union Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 1800. We meet at the Boeing Machinists' Hall. It is located at 9125 15th Place South, Seattle, WA 98108. Park on the south side of the buildings. All union members are encouraged to attend. Next meeting - July 11, 2006.

Accomplishments of our Local

Many have said that they are not up to date with some of the things that are going on within our union. It was suggested to post some of our accomplishments in this newsletter. All of the items listed below have been discussed at our monthly meetings. We hope more will attend to receive the latest information and share their own opinions. These meetings are the forum to voice your concerns, not the driver's room.

Here's what we've been doing since last fall:

- Increased participation by adding:
 - 2 new Vice-Chairs - Larry G. and Don P.
 - New pension comm. members - Wayne I., Dick Peterson and Jim W.
- Created a UTU Rep on Duty Cell Phone 206-816-2559
- Created UTU Business Cards w/ Weingarten Rights
- Worked with co. to create new Ski Bid procedures - no OT caps on ski bids
- May bids saw the addition of some cruise ship charters
- Disciplinary letters removed from files for several drivers, after hearings with mgmt.
- Several suspensions/terminations reversed
- Numerous dispatch inquiries filed
- Improving relationship and work environment with management - concentrating on resolving issues before implementing the grievance procedure.
- Several accident point determinations changed for drivers after meeting with mgmt.
- Improving communications on the UTU website
- Holding mid-monthly meetings for the UTU Officers to address concerns of membership
- Won an NLRB filing re: Weingarten Rights and Refusal to provide information to union reps
- Avoided arbitration in the UW De-request Case
We got our original requested remedy through discussion and diplomacy.
- Helped drivers with vacation requests, vehicle training, medical leave calculations, backpay for various issues, etc., etc., etc.
- We're keeping busy! Send in ideas for the next newsletter to locker #9. THANKS!!!!!!