

UTU Local 161 Newsletter

January 15, 2007

Next Union Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.
Boeing Machinists Hall
9125 15th Place South
Seattle, WA 98108
South Building

Union Dues

At our last union meeting on Jan. 9th, the topic of union dues was discussed. With negotiations, salaries and contract printing, the local has incurred many expenses over the past few months. The checking account is at an all time low.

The idea of raising the dues was brought up at the table. In order to enact such a raise, we must announce this possibility and then, have open discussion by the membership at our next union meeting on Feb. 13, 2007.

If any of you have concerns and wish to voice your opinion on this subject, be sure to attend the Feb. meeting and let us know what you think. Your opinion is important to us, so plan on being at this next meeting. Thank you.

New Officers

Effective Jan. 1, 2007, Local 161 welcomes three new vice-chairpersons to our roster of Officers. Jerry Healy, Chuck Fox and Derek Brenden have volunteered their services to help improve the working conditions for the union membership at GLS. We look forward to their involvement and hope things will continue to improve.

Continuing as Vice-Chairpersons are Kiki Garrison, Lem Austin, Norm Wherrett and Larry Gregg. If you have any questions or concerns, be sure to ask these individuals for assistance.

Dealing with Illnesses

Basically, if you are sick or feeling ill, do not drive. If you are taking any medications that cause drowsiness, do not drive. When the dispatcher asks you to work when you are sick, you have the right to say no.

We recently had a case where a driver felt pressured to report to work when a dispatcher insisted he come in. He had to take a random drug test on that next day and failed it due to the

prescribed medications that he was on. GLS terminated the driver.

The union grieved the situation based on FMCSR regulations that drivers have the right to refuse work when they are sick or fatigued. The driver has returned to work and was reimbursed for the week that he was placed out of service. The company also paid the expenses he incurred for clearing his name.

To avoid such occurrences in the future, please remember that you have the legal right to inform the operations department when you feel it is not safe for you to drive, due to illness or fatigue. Safety is the main goal here. As you all know, a driver needs to be alert and able to give 100% when behind the wheel. Stay safe!

Shop Personnel Pay Rate Increase Discrepancy

Several shop personnel did not receive the appropriate retroactive pay increase that they were entitled to. This was brought to the attention of Payroll and should be fixed soon. All other shop employees should double-check their last few checks to make sure the new pay rates are correct. Any questions should be brought to the attention of a UTU Vice-Chairperson.

Do You Volunteer?

I am interested in hearing about anyone who does volunteer work in his or her community. It could be at a hospital, community center, school, church, sports events, charities, etc.

Many people get caught up in the rat race, trying to get more and more out of life, failing to realize that there are many less fortunate people in our area. If you have an interesting story to share, please submit it to locker #9. Volunteering is good for you. Helping others is what life is really about.

Thought for the Day

Take the word "problem" out of your vocabulary. Then, replace it with the word "challenge." Life is nothing but a series of challenges. Everyone has to deal with them. Just try to solve them one at a time and move on to the next one. HOW you face them will not only affect your attitude, but also your productivity.