

UTU Local 161 Newsletter for February - February 21, 2007

Next Union Meeting

Our next union meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13 at 6:00 pm. We welcome all union members to attend, participate and keep up-to-date on the issues that we are facing.

What has the union done for you?

At our last union meeting, it was mentioned that many people who do not attend the meetings are unaware of what their union has been doing for them. It was suggested that we publicize some of our accomplishments in this newsletter. I was hesitant as it might appear that we were boasting or rubbing it in the face of the company. That is not our intent here as we merely wish to inform the membership of some of the activities that the union officers are involved with.

A driver was written up for not calling in 2 hours early to ask for the day off. The Union brought in cell phone records showing he did call in before the 2 hour requirement. End result, the letter was removed from his file.

The company received a call stating that a GLS bus hit a tow truck mirror and damaged it. The Safety Dept. assessed 6 points on the driver's record and denied him a safety bonus. We grieved it and won based on no photos, no damage to our bus and the driver's statement that no contact was made.

A driver on prescribed medications was pressured to work. Upon his arrival at the shop, he was told to go to the clinic and take a drug test. He failed it and was terminated. We went through 3 levels of the grievance procedure and eventually got the driver reinstated with back pay and cost of expenses that were incurred by him to clear his name. It was based on the FMCSR rules that the company should not force drivers to work when they are sick or fatigued. A driver was assigned 2 back-to-back continuous

shuttles without adequate breaks in between. He asked for a break and ended up getting replaced and lost hours as a result. We grieved it and he was reimbursed for the lost hours.

There are currently more dispatch inquires and grievances that we are working on. We hope that you will attend the monthly union meetings to get all the details.

Contract Booklets available

Many of you have received the new copies of the contract. If you have not, let me (Paul S.) know. Remember that we do have a copy of it on the website: www.utulocal161.org

Cornish Shuttle

If you encounter parked cars in the zone at Kerry Hall, you should get the license plate number and call Reginald Snowden at Cornish's Dept. of Public Safety. 206-793-5688. He will have it cited and towed if at all possible.

Union/Management Meeting

We have a meeting scheduled for Feb. 26th to discuss several issues of concern. The union will be represented by Jerry, Rodney, Wayne and Paul. We will share the results at our next union mtg.

Schedule B

March will be the next month where shop personnel can apply to move up a level in their job classification based on Schedule B. A big thank you to Derek for working on updating this.

Thought for the Day

My mother used to say, "He who angers you, conquers you." It always ticked me off, because she was right!