

NEWSLETTER - NAVISTAR UNIT C.A.W. Local 127

April 26, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have now been on lay-off as an entire Unit for a few days shy of ten months. Times are tough for obtaining new employment and the majority of us will no longer be in receipt of E.I. Benefits at the end of June. Not exactly an ideal situation, however both the Local 127 and Local 35 Committees recognize the stress and remain committed to attempting to get a Collective Agreement with the Company.

The Company remains steadfast in their “New World Order” proposal that remains on the table from June 29, 2010. To reiterate what this means to us the Membership:

- Seniority Rights Violated (Call back based on Capability)
- Less than 100 jobs (No Paint or Trim Departments)
- No Sleepers Built in Chatham
- Changes to benefits and pensions

These changes reduce the Chatham Assembly Plant to a “Kit Plant” and are not conducive to a great outcome for the more than 900 members who remain on the seniority list!

We attended the most recent “Plant Tour” on April 13, 2010. The facility remains without stock to build product and as far as equipment and other items that were in the Plant, it remains at the facility. I received information this morning from Todd Armstrong that the Company will be moving any empty rental trailers off the property in the near future.

The Committee and Local Management remain conversational about any ongoing issues the most recent being those with 30 years of service or greater were given the option to retire for May 1, 2010. Many of these longtime members have chosen to retire and move on with their lives, in total 23 from the Local 127 Unit. These members are wished the very best in their future endeavors and are commended for their strong union beliefs and efforts over the years.

A more recent seniority list has been forwarded to the C.A.W. Action Centre and those wishing to get their approximate Seniority Number can call or visit on Riverview Drive to obtain this information.

Since the time of the last Unit Meeting in March, one rumour remains constant and continually circulates in the community, “The Company is reopening CAP with no union following the passing of a Year and a Day.” The Company cannot decertify the Union therefore the C.A.W. remains the Bargaining Agent for the Membership.

The Local 127 and Local 35 Committees continue to meet and discuss our best avenues to take when we return to Bargaining with the Company. Although the economic situation is improving, it is still not the best it could be for going back to the table, however the ever present need of the membership to have resolve remains first and foremost in the minds of those elected to represent you. When we have finished our internal discussion with the National Union on this topic, an update will be given to the Members.

Some Members are still unaware that the Local 127 Committee has committed to be at the Local Hall on Merritt Ave., each Wednesday morning between 9:00 a.m. and noon. If any of the members have questions or concerns they are welcome to come into the Hall at this time for conversation. It may be a great way for you to ask the Committee the difference between fact and fiction so that the rumours among us fall by the wayside.

The next Navistar Unit Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 29, 2010 at the C.A.W. Local 127 Hall on Merritt Ave, in Chatham at 10:00 a.m. Brother Ken Lewenza and Brother Bob Chernecki, along with others from the National Union, will be in attendance to speak to the Membership and answer questions and address any concerns that you have. This meeting is open to both Local 127 and Local 35 Members. Looking forward to seeing everyone at this meeting! So often, inaccurate second hand information is passed on following these meetings. Make a point, if possible, to attend and ask questions and express your concerns. This is the place where Union Business is conducted. The Members are "The Union"!

In Solidarity,

Cathy Wiebenga – Plant Chairperson
C.A.W. Local 127
Navistar Unit