

UNION MEETING MINUTES

September 4, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call of officers:

Present:

Paul Gipson
Pete Trinidad
John Moberg
Ray Jackson
John Doyle
Brenda Boler
Tim Dobkins
Jerome Davison

Absent:

Al Long (UB)
Nelson Trinidad
Tim Hall

The Recording Secretary read the August 2008 meeting minutes and a motion to accept as read was made by John Catrino, 2nd by Bryan Scott and carried.

The Financial Report was read by Ray Jackson who motioned to accept as read, 2nd by Bruce Aubrey and a question was asked about the operating fund and Ray explained its use and the motion carried.

Communications:

Motion by Jack Tipold, 2nd by Sarah Long and carried to accept the Executive Board Recommendation to send up to four (4) with lost

time and expenses to the 30th Annual A. Philip Randolph Institute in Fort Wayne, Indiana with Jill Long Thompson as the keynote speaker.

Motion by Tom Kimes, 2nd by Guy Barney and carried to accept the Executive Board Recommendation to purchase a table of eight (8) at a cost of \$1,000 for the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor AFL-CIO Annual Community Awards Reception, September 19, 2008 at the Duneland Falls Banquet Center.

Motion by Dave Williams, 2nd by Joe Hansen and carried to accept the Executive Board Recommendation to spend our allowable \$300 in the following manner:

- \$100 Opportunity Enterprises
- \$25 Spaghetti Supper Benefit for Alexander Hopkins
- \$25 South Haven Post 502 American Legion Poker Run for Veterans Home.
- \$50 Special Olympics
- \$50 Spaghetti Dinner Benefit for John Koehler.

Thank You's:

- Down Syndrome Buddy Walk
- American Cancer Society

Information:

- Tentative Agreement Reached

International Report:

Rick Bucher praised the Local 6787 Negotiating Team for their efforts, and told the membership to give their selves a hand for authorizing a strike vote which was needed to settle the contract. Rick also urged everyone to vote this fall for labor friendly candidates. It is important to keep our Union strong in our local communities and our country.

Ray Jackson explained the process to make sure we are registered to vote.

Paul talked about all the rumors that were out in the plant during the final days leading to our agreement, and how close we were to going on strike because of them.

Paul went on to talk about the Democrat and Republican Presidential Convention and which platform best serves our interest. Paul talked about this contract being for our kids and grandkids. He talked about our leadership in Washington, D.C. and our involvement to get the right candidates elected to address the most issues that we face. It is not a single issue election. We need to focus on, which platform supports more of our interests as a whole. Don't be tricked by single-issues and make sure we all them all up before we decide. Examine the facts. Paul talked about racism and seniors being at issue in this election and

remembering to do what is best for your family. Paul referred to the war in Iraq and the fact that we work for an employer who produces steel in Russia who is currently causing havoc in Georgia, a country we support. Paul talked about our national politics and how it affects our ability to work in the States. He said to do the research to vote for who will be best for working families. Our jobs and our ability to bargain will depend on who is elected this fall. When will we elect a government that will put Americans back to work and deal with healthcare.

Paul talked about giving Arcelor/Mittal the opportunity to set the pattern and how they let that slip away taking us to pattern plus bargaining. Paul reviewed the highlights of the contract and language changes that were made. Paul talked about local issues and the importance of getting them settled before the final hour because as important as they are, it would be difficult to call for a national strike over them. We got the most we could and will continue to work to improve what we didn't get. Paul talked about the contrast of personalities at the top of this company and the difference between father and son on experience and the way they think. He said to start saving now for the next round. Paul fielded many questions from interim bonus plans and when they would be implemented and other questions on the new contract.

Summaries will be here soon, and we will have explanation meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn and the meeting was over at 5:30 p.m.