



USW Local 59 Newswire

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In this Issue: Our last meeting and what is going on.

Our Last Meeting

Our last meeting began with a moment of silence for Kenneth Totzke, Sr. who died.

Sergeant at Arms Travis Olsen submitted his resignation due to personal issues and President Kizewski appointed Kirk Hamilton as temporary Sergeant at Arms. A petition of bylaws change was then presented to make the sergeant at arms position an appointed in stead of elected position. This will be referred to the Bylaws committee for action at the next meeting.

It was reported we had the third step meeting for the oilers grievance and nothing is back yet on an answer from the company. We have nothing new on any wage adjustments filed and also nothing new to report on job losses.

It was asked if the minutes of the monthly meetings with the company would be still coming out on the floor of the mills but the company has eliminated the job of the one who was responsible so no notes will be taken in the future.

This was all the business discussed at the meeting and it was adjourned.

What's Going On

As you can see on the top of our publication there is a new logo for the United Steel Workers. It contains United Steel Workers, Unity and Strength for Workers. This new logo represents the views and intentions of our new Union, to create unity to increase the strength of our workers in our Industries. We

will be working on changing our forms and other signs to the new logo as soon as we can do so.

Union workers have fought hard for decades to improve the lives of working people by securing gains on the job through collective bargaining. Many jobs that were once considered the least-desirable became living wage jobs through these efforts, building the American middle class. Today union members continue to hold the line on wages and benefits -- in increasingly difficult circumstances. The efforts of union members often leads to improved standards for non-union workers and helps to maintain the middle class we worked so hard to create

The Advantage to Being Union:

Union workers' median weekly earnings \$801
Non-union workers' median weekly earnings \$622
The Advantage of Being Union: 29%

Median weekly earnings for union women \$731
Median weekly earnings for non-union women \$559
The Advantage of Being Union: 31%

Union workers with access to medical care 92%
Non-union workers with access to medical care 68%
The Advantage of Being Union: 35%

Union workers with access to defined-benefit pension plans 73%
Non-union workers with access to defined-benefit pension plans 16%
The Advantage of Being Union: 356%

So as you can see there is a definite advantage to having Unions and being in a Union no matter what Big Business wants to have you and the public at large believe.

What Is Rapid Response

Grassroots: Rapid Response is the Steelworkers' nonpartisan grassroots education, communication, and action program that involves every member.

Communication: Rapid Response allows for almost instant personal communication with every USW member on any given subject.

Education: Rapid Response provides the necessary structure to inform every USW member about pending legislation concerning labor and work-related issues. All information identifies the issue, its effect on workers and their families, and the sponsors and supporters. It also asks for a specific response.

Action: Rapid Response Action Calls provide USW members with a way to respond to the education provided. Rapid Response also provides the necessary structure to activate the USW membership to provide for real change in our ability to influence the legislative process. This system provides the necessary infrastructure to generate tremendous action on any given issue.

Change: Rapid Response

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provides the tools to generate necessary changes in the legislative process to ensure that labor survives and flourishes far into the future.

Opportunity: Finally, Rapid Response provides opportunity for all USW members to have a strong voice and an active part in the legislative activities that affect their daily lives. This program allows USW members to fight back on a daily basis on issues that affect them, their families, and their communities.

The International Union will be working hard in the near future to set up this program in our local Union. We must all become politically aware of what is going on in Washington and Madison or we will all be losers in our financial lives as that is where the policies that favor Companies over Unions are developed.

President's Corner

We have not had any meetings with the company over the proposed job eliminations yet other than the ones previously announced.

We will let you know and something will be written up for you to read when they are identified by the company and announced to us.

Please do not spread rumors that someone said, or heard from someone else, as so far that is all that has been on the floor concerning our Local. As I have said before we will let you know as soon as we are informed. I will make sure that I write something up to put on the mill bulletin boards the day it is made known to us. The rumors are doing nothing good and it is a shame that we have to work with this hanging over our heads.

Work safe. At least the weather is starting to be a little nicer,

JimKizewski

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be Wednesday April 5th at the new Labor Hall in Wisconsin Rapids at 7 PM

We have first on the agendas the

sending of representatives to the Rapid Response Conference in Washington DC in June. This conference will be workshops and lobbying of Congress on the issues important to the working man in today's society.

We will also take up the proposed changes in the bylaws making the sergeant at arms position an appointed position instead of elected position. If this change is made at this time it will save us from having a special election for the job due to the resignation of Travis Olsen. If the change is made by the membership the language would be the same as the language for stewards in the bylaws and the position would be appointed yearly in January by the President with the approval of the membership.

We are also required by the International to change our bylaws to read a strike vote of 50% plus one is all that is needed instead of the 3/4 percent we now have in our bylaws.

We also must decide if the oilers grievance 05-07-59N should be taken to arbitration since we have past third step on this grievance.

As always if you have anything you wish to bring up your Union meeting is the place to be heard so plan on joining us on April 5th.