

Wednesday, January-20-10

President's Report

While I hope most of you had good holidays I know that it hasn't been that great for many of our members. Since mid December we have had 19 suspensions in the Mine alone. Of those 4 have been terminated. While others have returned to work there are still several that await decisions on their future. Most of those suspensions stemmed from accidents at work but the matters are complicated with the discovery of cell phones. Mine management is taking a strong stance on cell phones and it is resulting in strong discipline. The rule on cell phones in operating areas, not only the mine, has been made clear and is becoming increasingly difficult to defend. We have also had 2 terminations in extraction again for the use of cell phone in the operating area. Needless to say that my advice is that cell phones be kept in your lockers.

In upgrading management has been focusing and taking strong stances on managing absenteeism. They are putting extra efforts in investigating situations which they believe are abuse of the sick policy. Proper documentation from your Dr. is essential.

Over the last 2 years Suncor and the Union have been discussing a possible progression or area notes for Site Wide Services. At our last meeting with management of the area, we asked that they put into writing what they believe the area notes should look like. This will give us the opportunity to work at developing a proper set of area notes to be entered into our collective agreement. We expect that from these discussions a proper understanding of our scope of work will be defined.

As most of you know by now, our members from the TransAlta unit will be returning to Suncor by the end of 2010. Executives from both Units are presently talking on the amalgamation of the Powerhouse into the Suncor Unit Collective Agreement. Once completed the TransAlta unit would be left with approximately 20 members working on the Co generating Units that are owned and operated by TransAlta.

We continue to work on the improvement of our new website at cep707.ca. To date we have about 400 members that have registered to our secure site. We had the first day of voting online on Tuesday the 19th and by all accounts everything went fairly smooth. I am looking forward to continued successes with our new online voting. If you haven't done so yet, please register at the Member login of our website, I believe that you will be pleased with its content. I extend my thanks on your behalf to Shane Stoodley, Steward Electronics and webmaster for all his hard work on site.

Bargaining:

Although we are somewhat behind on preparation for Bargaining, things are proceeding well. Your Bargaining Committee, Ken Bonar Upgrading, Scott Carnochan Materials, Jeff Rogers PIM and Steve Drover Extraction have been working getting ready. The survey has been out now for several weeks and the committee has been recording your requests as they come in. To date we have only received about

400 completed surveys, I encourage you to fill one out if you have not already done so. The closing date for submitting your survey is Feb 1st. Surveys can also be completed on line at cep707.ca.

The special membership meeting for approval of the proposals for bargaining is called for Tuesday Feb 16th at 9:30 pm and Wednesday Feb 17 at 9:30 am, at the Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre.

The National Union through the Energy National Bargaining Program is still working at identifying a Target Company to bargain the National Pattern. Since Suncor now has locals other than 707, they could very well be the target. Historically once a Company had accepted to Bargain the National pattern, the National Committee would bargain the issues for National Bargaining and once ratified by all participating locals, the local bargaining would begin. It is important to know that for local 707, it is expected that we will be bargaining wages above the negotiated National Pattern through what is called the Oilsands supplement.

In preparation for Bargaining our stewards will be going through a Bargaining Course later this week. This course will prepare our stewards in their role for bargaining the area notes. The course will be held in our Hall and will be instructed by Brother Rick Klimchuk, National Rep Edmonton and Sister Sue Pearce, National Rep Fort McMurray.

For those that are interested in doing the CBT training for Extraction and Upgrading I am please to announce that the systems at our hall have finally been repaired. For those that have already started the modules and have been discouraged by the quality of the streaming video, you will find 100% improvement. I hope that you will come back to complete your training.

In closing I want to thank all the stewards and safety reps for their continued work in representing you and the interest of our Union. Together we can make a difference.

In Solidarity

Roland LeFort President CEP Local 707 Suncor Unit