



Activity Report

a brief communication from your union

February 17, 2017

In the beginning it started out:

The GNC and I went to Merrillville October 30th and met with the other Titan locals and had a successful meet and greet session with Director Millsap. Morry made an appearance and the negotiations were underway. Negotiations were taking place on a weekly basis until the Christmas holiday approached and at that time meetings began to stall.

In January Morry fired an attorney and apologized that things were not getting done, and two new lawyers were hired. He gave us a new proposal that was to include all we had accomplished to this point. This almost set us back a month as things were not right, (what's new).

With the arrival of February, things slowed to a snail's pace, or slower, and in my opinion the lawyers kept trying new strategies on how to strangle the union. On February 10th the company gave us a Last Best and Final offer, although not implemented. We are now home and pondering the Last Best and Final offer. The Company has said we are not done negotiating yet and there is still room for movement. So what happened on February 10th? We are still status quo as far as the contract goes, so really not much. We will put together another counter offer and continue to negotiate in the next couple of weeks.

Director Millsap attended our membership meeting February 12th, Bryan on February 14th and Des Moines on February 16th where questions were asked and answered to the satisfaction of most. If you hear anything on the floor like, "I hear Titan will be hiring many new employees once the contract is settled," by management, please let a steward or GNC member know. Now you are all up to date on negotiations.

In January we had five new retirees. Ann Coan, Al Corbitt, Steve Fellows, Cleaven Jamison, and Tim Roe. I congratulate them on their new life outside of Titan and wish them luck in their retirement.

If and when considering your retirement, you should think about starting your pension paperwork; a Rule of 85 application needs to be submitted 30 days prior to your desired retirement date. Planning ahead makes this a smoother transition and any problems can be handled before your actual retirement takes place.

Our Financial Secretary Steve Bamberg is working on getting our tax returns completed. These include an LM-3 and a 990 form to be filed with the government by March 31.

Many of you will be receiving notice of training being made available to you under A Trade Act for laid off workers entitled to benefits. Titan employees qualify under Trade certification #97470. Meetings will be held and if you are eligible you will receive a card in the mail. A March 8th date has been set with times to be announced. I will post a notice next week when times have been set.

With retirements, another E-board member will be needed. If interested let me know, or leave a document stating your desire at the Union Hall.

*Fraternally,
Don Hill, President*

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United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

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