



LOCAL 2-21 C.A.T. Letter

Check out all the C.A.T. Letters at www.usw2-21.com/updates.htm

Distribution: # 53

Date: 9-23-2010

I hope by now everyone has heard from their stewards, CAT Team member or their C-5 representatives about what took place at yesterday's steward meeting. We announced yesterday that while we certainly hope we don't end up going on strike, we are damn sure going to be prepared for one.

Beginning today, the committee and I will be spending a great amount of our time assembling committees that need to be in place to make a strike run as organized as possible. There will be 6 committees in place. Each committee will be responsible for one of the following categories; Picket line Activity, Membership Communication and Activity, Community Outreach, Media Gatekeeper, Strike Assistance, Strike Organization.

The Picket Line Committee will be responsible for picket line activity and will consist of an overall coordinator as well as picket line captains for each shift. Their duties will include establishing a schedule for picket duty as well as to have daily contact with every person on every shift when picketing. They will share pertinent information and will have complete control of the picket lines to assure they are being conducted in an orderly manner.

The Membership Communication and Activity Committee will have the responsibility of communicating with every member, and their families, to assure then have all the updated information as well as any membership activities they may be planned. To pull this off, a data base will be established with each person's phone number (including cell phones), addresses and e-mails. This will be a huge undertaking but will be necessary if we are going to contact everyone.

The Community Outreach Committee will be responsible of reaching out to the community for support. Support can come in many forms; they could donate something to our cause, they could write letter of support on our behalf, display signs like many already do or invite union leaders to talk at meeting or event they may be conducting, just to name a few.

The Media Gatekeeper will be responsible to coordinate media outreach. This person will be responsible for setting up interviews between the media and the union as well as to establish a group of people that can speak on behalf of the union should it be necessary. The important thing to remember is that a consistent message gets sent out to the community.

The Strike Assistance Committee is responsible for distributing the local union's strike assistance program, raising money, and finding resources and sources of assistance to help the membership get through the strike. This is going to be a huge undertaking.

The leaders of the 5 committees described above, along with selected members of the bargaining committee, will form the **Strike Organization Committee**. This group will meet on a regular basis, weekly at least, to discuss all issues of the strike and to take appropriate action where necessary. This could mean adding more people to a committee, eliminating a bad apple from a group or contacting other people such as politicians or community leaders to get involved. Any new information will also be shared at this time so the information can reach the picket lines and the member's homes in a timely fashion.

Anyone interest in any of the above committees please contact me.

I have also asked Attorney Peter Strom to represent Local 21 throughout the rest of negotiations including any potential strike. I do want to make something very clear (by direction from Mr. Strom); Attorney Strom is representing our Local, not any of us as an individual.

One last thought; None of us want to go on strike! The fact of the matter is because of our work ethics here in Escanaba, this mill has not suffered one dollar of financial burden in the past 28 months. We continue to meet or beat standard month after month. While this is something we can proudly use at the bargaining table, there really is no deterrent for the company. Why would they want a contract? They are saving money and getting record tonnage out the door. It's because of this attitude of theirs that I wouldn't be surprised if they try to drag this on or even give us a last/best/final with not much of a change of what they have offered so far. If that happens, all the work of assembling these committees will prove to have been necessary.

Thank you for your support.

In Solidarity,

Bryon Branstrom

Please see other side