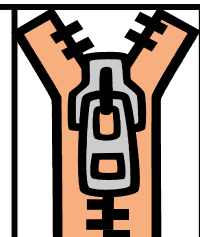




The New Informer

February, 2010



Issue No.37

A Stronger, Wiser, Democratic, and Focused Local Union

Promises! Assurances! = Nothing!

The CPU leadership has changed their word, from assurances to promises. Back in the beginning of this quagmire, Mr. Hall stated that he had “assurances” from the Company that they would not interfere and honor the terms of the contract. Then, Mr. Hall and the rest of the CPU leadership claimed that they had promises from the Company. Whatever word that they wish to incorporate, the CPU leadership has delivered to us all one thing, and that is nothing.

An employee asked the CPU if they were going to arbitrate or file a grievance on several disciplinary actions that have taken place, the CPU’s reply was “We do not have arbitration rights, therefore, there is no point in filing a grievance.” All the CPU can do is stand-by with their thumbs up their posterior and whistle while the Human Resources Department continues their head hunting safari.

Where is this protection that you offered us, Roy, Tony, and Rick? Did you know that once the contract was null and void that we had virtually no protection? If you did, why didn’t you inform your supporters of this? Is it because if you had explained everything to them, you would have risked losing the election? Was this a win at all cost campaign? If you and your “world class” legal team did not know this, then the CPU should have never existed.

What about this financial strength that the CPU was supposed to have? Debt is not strength. The CPU dues are not coming in as anticipated and why didn’t the CPU inform the membership that once you sign the dues check-off card, even if you are currently not paying dues, that you are personally assuming any and all debt, such as the lawyer fees, if the CPU defaults on any? What if the CPU calls a strike? What plan is in

place to give the members some financial aid? It has been told by staunch CPU supporters that the CPU leadership is not going to call a strike. Why go to the negotiating table? Is the CPU leadership going to recommend a sub-standard contract that will we have to endure just to keep the USW at bay?

Reading through the notes on the CPU’s talks with the Company, there were no actual negotiations and Mr. Booth states that in saying that no agendas were exchanged, it seems that the Company is choosing where to start the negotiations.

Mr. Booth stated that the Company felt that there was more value in pursuing the USW draft than battling out the 2001 language (red book). The Company suggested that it would be better to work on efficiencies rather than hit the workers in the pocket. Pocket? You mean that our salaries can be renegotiated? How is that so when the CPU leadership told us that our present salaries could not be touched?

What about this Employee Evaluation that the hourly work force has received? According to Tony Markland, the CPU leadership agreed to it. What did we, the hourly workers, receive in return or did the Company tell you that you were going to accept it?

Mr. Booth states that the Company left the talks early and when Roy said that he had an email communications from the Company representatives confirming that negotiations would take place on Friday, most of the Company representatives commented that they never intended to bargain on Friday. Funny how the Company forgets promises, isn’t Mr. Hall?

The CPU is now informing the employees to get a list



"There's absolutely no danger in a vote for the CPU, because the National Labor Relations Board is gonna hold the company accountable to live up to those things that they promised," says Roy Hall, CPU's president. — courtesy of WDBJ7.com



CPU'S Top Ten Achievements From October 14th 2009 Until Now

1. After 2 years of trying, they finally succeeded in officially proving through an NLRB vote that they have split the Covington workforce right down the middle.
2. They have given up 60 years of past practices and protections for Covington workers, that were established by our predecessors.
3. After insisting that it would never happen, they have given up the ability to arbitrate grievances.
4. After insisting that it would never happen, they have lost dues check off, cutting off any possibility of building a strong union. C'mon give us a break cpu. You say that you have the best lawyers in the country and they didn't know that?
5. After insisting it would never happen, they have forced Covington workers into an inferior health insurance plan for 2010. **"Have you been to the doctor or the pharmacy lately"**.
6. They lost the NLRB charges trying to overturn the USW contract, just another loss added to every legal battle the cpu and the best inexperienced attorneys in the country have engaged in.
7. They robbed everyone in Covington of a first class health clinic.
8. They forced Covington workers into an inferior safety shoe program.
9. They have successfully isolated themselves from the rest of the Union world.
10. They filed a lawsuit to regain the Union hall; we thought Roy said it was just a run down building at the disaffiliation meeting? What's the motive? Stay tuned and find out what happens in 2010!!!!!!

Way to Go! You are living-up to our expectations!



(Continued from page 1)

of past practices and side agreement for the “zipper clause”. Well, all the past practices and agreements from the past 50 years are null and void. The only past practices or side agreements that are valid started from the date that the CPU was certified. The Company stated that they were going to review and approve only

the “efficient” ones. That will probably be a very short list.

It appears that the CPU leadership made promises to us that could not be fulfilled and delivered a zipper clause to the wrong Company official.

It is going to be a long year and the clock is ticking.

Tick Tock!

A Letter to the Hourly Workers

Dear Union Brothers and Sisters,

The CPU has entered into negotiations recently and have already posted on their web site that the Company wants to freeze pensions at age 65 for hourly workers. CPU is trying to blame USW and the committee for this proposal which is totally ridiculous! The committee and I take full responsibility for the previous contract that was in writing guaranteed for six years. There was no mention of any freeze on pension. The Company cannot add or subtract from an agreement once both parties have signed and agreed to.

We need to remember that the USW contract is null and void according to the NLRB and CPU, so why do they continue to blame USW. The reason is they will not be able to live up to the promises of a better contract and will have to face employees with concessions. This is CPU's chance to negotiate a new contract and quit blaming someone else for your mistakes. The USW committee is showing true leadership by standing by our contract and accepting responsibility. Will CPU do the same or will they continue trying to blame the USW?

CPU is negotiating the Contract now not the USW, so it's time to accept the responsibility that you asked for and accept your inability to force the Company into anything. CPU can claim anything,

but the truth is, the USW had a written contract good for six years, stated in plain English what we had agreed to, nothing more nothing less. The workers of MeadWestvaco will not tolerate the blaming of the USW anymore for what happens during negotiations with CPU.

CPU is responsible for this Contract including the good bad and ugly. It's all up to you on this Contract. The USW committee accepts our responsibility

for our contract will you accept responsibility for yours?

Respectfully,
Bobby A. Harrison
President USW LOCAL 8675



*“The committee and I take full responsibility for the previous contract that was in writing guaranteed for six years.” — Bobby Harrison, President, USW Local 8-675
Photo courtesy WDBJ7.com*

If you received a letter stating that you have been denied the AFL/CIO life insurance, disregard this. **You do have the supplemental life insurance.** Duplicate applications were submitted in error causing this letter to be sent.



**Covington USW
Local 8-675**

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E-mail: uswlocal8675@yahoo.com
www.usw8675covington.com

Regular business meetings:
3rd Thursday of the month
at 4 p.m.

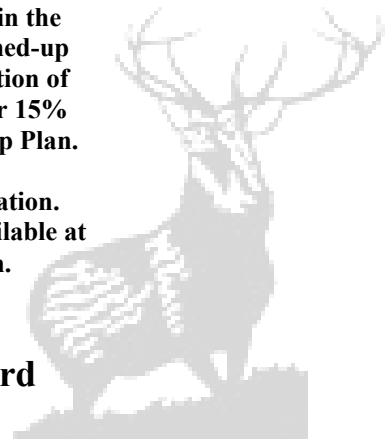


There is still time left

Stop by the USW Local 8-675 and join the many other employees who have signed-up for and enjoying the superior protection of the Hartford LTD/STD insurance for 15% less than the Lincoln Financial Group Plan.

Call (540) 962-4971 for more information. The informational packet is also available at www.usw8675covington.com/bulletin.

**The Choice is Clear...
The USW and The Hartford
Group!**



for open enrollment!

Hurry... Open enrolment ends February 28, 2010!

Party-Line Panel Vote OKs NLRB Nominee

By a 13-10 party-line vote on Feb. 4, the Democratic-run Senate Health, Education and Labor Committee approved SEIU Associate General Counsel Craig Becker to one of three vacant National Labor Relations Board seats.

The party-line vote was unusual, as was the GOP opposition, which forced a formal nomination hearing for Becker two days before. The opposition continues: Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., planned to file a cloture petition -- to shut off a potential GOP filibuster against Becker -- on Feb. 5. Democrats would need 60 votes to halt such a Republican talkathon. Dems have 57 senators, plus two independents.

The outcome of the fight over Becker, a Chicagoan, is important: The NLRB rules on labor-management conflicts, including deciding whom -- and which groups of workers -- unions can represent, and ruling on labor law-breaking by companies. In response to the GOP threat to Becker's nomination, several unions, led by the Communications Workers, urged members to call Congress and support him.

The GOP and business -- 200 companies and 53 lobbies organized by the National Association of Manufacturers -- opposed Becker because of what they claimed were his biases in labor law, shown in his "radical" writings as a professor at the University of Chicago and other schools, and as a lawyer for SEIU and the AFL-CIO.

Becker also argued for SEIU in a notable U.S. Supreme

Court case several years ago, where home health care workers contended they're eligible for overtime pay and other labor law protections. The court ruled against him and the workers. "Becker would direct the NLRB to rewrite current union election rules in favor of union organizers, a decision that should be left to Congress. Becker would use the NLRB to advance aspects of the jobs-killing Employee Free Choice Act," NAM claimed.

Becker promised senators he would "transcend the adversarial process in order to serve a larger purpose -- the fair and faithful enforcement of the law. I will occupy a position far different from the positions I have occupied as a scholar, teacher, and advocate... If confirmed, I will have a duty to consider impartially all views appropriately expressed to the board" and "decide cases fairly based on the relevant facts and applicable law. That is exactly what I pledge to do, should I be confirmed."

The 5-member board has been operating with two members -- Democrat Wilma Liebman and Republican Peter Schaumber -- since the last day of 2007. Courts have split over whether that's enough to make decisions, and the Supreme Court will hear arguments in March on that issue. The other two Obama NLRB nominees, GOP Senate Labor Committee staffer Brian Hayes and Buffalo labor lawyer Mark Pearce, a Democrat, await Senate votes and were not controversial.