



The New Informer

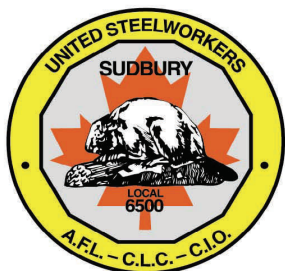
June 1, 2010

~~VALE~~

Issue No.40

A Stronger, Wiser, Democratic, and Focused Local Union

A Letter to the USW from Local 6500



United Steelworkers Local 6500

May 26, 2010
Leo Gerard
International President
United Steelworkers
Five Gateway Centre
Pittsburgh PA 15222

Dear Brother Leo:

After more than 10 months on strike against Vale Inco, I write to inform you that Local 6500 and its 3,000 members continue to stand strong together. As President of Local 6500, it has been a difficult ten months, but our commitment to protecting our Collective Agreement remains as solid as ever.

Vale Inco has made every effort to destroy our rights as workers. Scabs, a hired strike breaking security firm, discharges of nine members, personal lawsuits, suing of Local 6500, court injunctions and bad faith bargaining is a list of some of the disgraceful measures the Company has resorted to. In fact on May 11th, Local 6500 was ordered by a judge in a court of law to have two protest sites disbanded or our members and many community members would be arrested with possible fines and imprisonment. The protest sites were disbanded because the Ontario Labour Relations Board heard arguments about

the Union's charges of bad faith bargaining. The hearing was expedited because of the protest and pressure from the Union.

On behalf of our members, I extend our warmest thanks to yourself and the International Executive Board for the unwavering support, guidance, assistance and solidarity. Without the resources provided to Local 6500, we would never have lasted this long in such a monumental struggle. The strike and defense fund, global campaign against Vale Inco, legal assistance and resource support are all greatly appreciated.

In closing, we realize that our strike is of worldwide importance to workers around the globe. We remain of firm resolve to continue the fight on behalf of our members and working men and women everywhere. The United Steelworkers has been the main reason we continue to fight on and without their support, this would have been a lost battle long ago.

In solidarity,

John Fera
President, Local 6500
United Steelworkers

Editors note: This letter was in response to an article on the World Socialist Website that the Covington Paperworkers Union linked on their message board. If the USW regains the bargaining agent status, we can rest assured that we would be given the same amount, if not more, support if a labor dispute was to occur.



An Open Letter to the Westvaco Retiree's Association

Dear Brother Paxton,

In response to your letter stating the USW Associate members are using anti-union tactics. Let's think back to when all of this disaffiliation started, before October 28, 2007. That's the date when our Local Union leadership split this membership in half and finally gave the company the upper hand. Instead of trying to work within the USW organization they broke the USW constitution and the local's by-laws by abandoning the membership. In other words, they quit!! Brother Paxton you have supported the CPU during this time. CPU leadership has used anti union websites to gather information to post on their website. They have hurled insults and names at USW supporters and have even picketed Leo Gerard when he came to attempt resolving the issues. CPU supporters picketed at the meeting and called people scabs because they came to hear President Gerard speak. One man that I know, with over forty year's service, was called a scab because he did not disaffiliate!!

You and some of the retirees were supporting the CPU during this ridiculous picket.

I have personally heard some of your comments, spewing hatred towards USW and its supporters. But, when you ask USW members to stand with you in support of all the management layoffs that included your wife, I remember who stood with you. Maybe you have forgotten that only one person from the CPU stood with you, while I and several USW supporters stood beside you.

Over the past two and one half years the USW has extended the olive branch to the CPU leadership to try and work things out, only to have the branch used to beat us over the head. CPU leadership has made promises and told lies to people. They have caused us to lose a chance to take over our own healthcare and create jobs with the clinic which

would have helped save money for all members and retirees. But you say the USW Associates are using anti union tactics!

You and your retiree's association should be ashamed of your actions during all of this. So, the next time that your association meets and has a meal. Let me give you some things to talk about, discuss and think on. What happened during the last vote, created a new Local Union. Not a merger, therefore all past practice, contracts, grievances and arbitrations are null and void. All of this history, that you and other retiree's have helped create, is gone forever. It is useless when trying to fight the com-

"I have personally heard some of your comments, spewing hatred towards USW and its supporters. "

pany and you helped throw it away. So, why don't you just use some of those old records to make a fire to cook your retiree's a meal. I hope you can stomach the taste of your blood, sweat and tears because you helped give our past back to the company. You should be ashamed of what you have helped accomplish. We have

no arbitration, no support and the CPU leadership is getting shoved around because they have no backbone. In the words of the CPU leadership, "It doesn't take members or money to get a contract, only skilled negotiators." Obviously, they were wrong again!

Our current members requested for the USW Associate membership and you ask President Gerard to dissolve it and for us to give up. When the USW was the bargaining agent you never ask the CPU to give up or stop the anti union activities. No, you have shown were your support is by your actions. Now we have to live with the repercussions.

Tom Buzzard
A Proud USW Member