

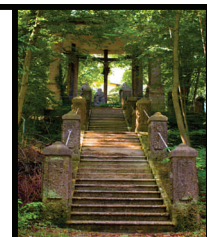


The New Informer

March 2010

Issue No.38

A Stronger, Wiser, Democratic, and Focused Local Union



People, You Have Been Misled...

Employees United for a Better Contract. This is on the Honduran-Made shirts that the CPU distributed. Employees United for a Better Contract is on orange stickers that are seen throughout the mill. “We promise to deliver the hourly workforce at the Covington Mead-Westvaco a contract that it deserves instead of the pro-company contract that the USW negotiated which contains unbearable sacrifices to seniority and healthcare. Therefore, when the CPU wins the NLRB Election, I will null and void the current, sub-standard contract that the USW has imposed on us. We will restore the union pride that has been lost in this area that it has always had,” stated CPU President Roy Hall to the local newspapers and television stations.

“I have assurances that we will be treated fairly by the Company. They have made promises and we, the CPU Leadership, intend to hold them to the promises that they made”, said Mr. Roy Hall.

The past union campaign became more like a “win at all costs” game to the CPU leadership and the hourly workforce was their pawns. Roy Hall, Phil Wright, Rick Gibson, Tony Markland and Bob Booth all made promises and told people what they wanted to hear in order to get their vote. They convinced people who did not fully understand the USW contract that it was sub-standard and that they could do better. The CPU managed to mislead 450 good people at the mill into voting for them.

During the union campaign, Roy Hall, Phil Wright, Rick Gibson, Tony Markland and Bob Booth never took responsibility for any wrong doing. It was always somebody else’s fault. This blame game continued Sunday at the CPU contract presentation.

Instead of being real leaders and accepting responsibil-

ity, Roy Hall blamed the CPU’s inability to negotiate the superior contract that was promised by them on the USW. Hey Tony, was the USW at the table with you? No. Rick, did the CPU bring their own agenda to the bargaining table? Yes. Bob, where was all this power that the CPU claimed to have that would bring the Company to its knees? It only took the Company a little over seven days to topple you.

The CPU Leadership not only could not deliver what they promised, but refuse to realize that they are in the driver’s seat with your only your hands on the steering wheel for the hourly workforce and there is no one else to blame.

You gambled with the livelihoods of not only the 450 people who believed in you, but everyone else who you could not mislead.

Roy Hall, Phil Wright, Rick Gibson, Tony Markland and Bob Booth, you condemned the USW Heath Clinic that we had and stated that you would deliver us a superior health plan that you had found. Well, where is it? Your contract proposal contains no improvement to our current healthcare. Phil, you stated to a USW supporter in an East Mill control room that it was not really a bad insurance policy.

What about the retirees? Roy, you made promises to the Westvaco Retirees Association and they supported the CPU all that the retirees possibly could. Where is their piece of the pie at? It is still at the supermarket because you knew all along that the retirees’ issues were a permissible subject of bargaining, meaning that the Company is not obligated to address. You would not even come and stand with them, which you said

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

that you would, when the USW Local 8-675 and the Westvaco Retirees Association picketed the mill. Only one CPU person did, and she is probably the only upper committee person that actually cares.

The CPU negotiating committee promised to win back the seniority concessions that it claimed the USW made. There were no seniority concessions made by the USW, so the CPU presented us with a huge seniority concession which is vacation restriction. Instead of being able to choose the vacation that your hard-earned seniority has got you, it will be dictated by shift manning requirements.

You gave away one thing that the USW Local 8-675 accomplished that the past negotiating committees have tried to get, that is a new contract date. Instead of a July expiration date that we had, you got us the December date back. Then, to cover-up your snafu of the December contract date, you told the hourly workforce at the presentation that the CPU had achieved a higher wage for the last year of contract date. It actually costs us money. Then again, according to you, it was the USW's fault.

The successorship language is gone. Heaven forbid the mill being sold in an asset sale, if it is, we are without a contract AGAIN!

Roy, you stated that the 10 day contract expiration notice was superior to the USW's 6 day. Do you actually think that your members and the rest of the hourly workforce are ignorant enough to believe that?

Where are all these promises at Roy Hall, Phil Wright, Rick Gibson, Tony Markland and Bob Booth that you made to your membership?

During the union campaign, the CPU Leadership advised its supporters not to read any of the material that was distributed by the USW. This is reminiscent of 2006 when you told the hourly workforce not to read any information that the Company gives you.

CPU members, you made the right choice to vote this contract offer down. Not because it is a CPU negotiated contract, it is bad and chances are, it is only going

to get worse. This is whole union argument is not about if you like Leo Gerrard or Jon Geenen. This is about who you want to negotiate your contract. Do you want a small, local union that whose leadership is irresponsible and has been proven time after time of deception? A small, local union who was given a chance to drive at the wheel and crashed no sooner than they started and still refuses to accept responsibility or the USW, who has proven that it can deliver in the most difficult, economic state of our country? CPU members, you are an honorable and proud group of people who have been misled. Come back into the USW and let's get our health care, seniority, and security back before it is too late.

This is not a pride thing, this is a livelihood thing.



LTD/STD from The Hartford
is still available. Stop by the
Hall
for more information.

Covington USW
Local 8-675

424 Prospect Street
Covington, VA 24426

Phone: 540-962-4971
E-mail: uswlocal8675@yahoo.com
www.usw8675covington.com

