



THE VOICE



Of UAW LOCAL 5287, High Point NC

Why do you feel having a Union is important?

"I feel the union is important to help maintain a balance of power. By giving the employee's a voice it helps keep their moral high. It must be done properly to represent the workers!"

Chris Barber C-2 1st Shift

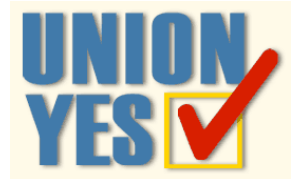
"Having a Union is important so the employees can have a say on what's going on in their work environment & their future."

Larry Patterson C-2 1st Shift

Jan - Mar 2009 Issue 1

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A Message from the President



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let me first say what an honor and privilege it has been to serve as your President at Local 5287. We Have gone through several tough battles in the last year and a half but we have come together in a great way. There are still obstacles we must face but we will overcome them too.

As Citizens of the United States I encourage everyone to register and "Go out and Vote". We need to keep our Politicians accountable for what they do and say. Politics affects our lives in many ways from the taxes we pay, healthcare costs, benefits we receive and to even our jobs through unfair trade practices. Through these hard economic times please keep our Union Brothers and Sisters that have been laid off in your thoughts and prayers. When the economic issues are better and the work picks up, those employees will be given an opportunity to return through our contract.

By working together we can accomplish so much more, take a look at our B.E.S.T. program here at TBB. The B.E.S.T. program is a joint Union and company program which has been a vast improvement for Health and Safety issues. Through the implementation of this program, TBB saved \$1,043,385 (\$70.27 per bus) from 2007-2008. In addition to the B.E.S.T. program, through the use of TOS tools we are being taught how to improve both quality and how to achieve this at a lower cost.

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President's Message Cont'd

Remember, the more profitable we can make the company, the more we bargain for at the table.

In the near future the Education Committee will be handing out surveys. We ask that you fill out these surveys and turn them back in to us so we can learn new ways to better support and serve your needs. Once again thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and thank you for your support. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead in 2009, increasing our Membership, and to bringing our Local closer together.

Solidarity Forever,

John L. Crawford

President

UAW Local 5287

Shop Committee

Here are some of the grievances that the Shop Chair has settled in the month of January! These represent only a couple of the issues that employees are facing on a day to day basis.

1. Grievance #0628 and #0695 Changing start Dept. 25 (Full Grant Settled)
2. Grievance #0563 Skilled Trades Robotic Tech. job posting (Full Grant Settled)
3. Grievance #0280 B. Kiser H and S fibrous glass issue (Full Grant Settled)
4. Grievance #0697 C2 Dept. 302 Vacation %'s 4 employees (Full Grant Settled)
5. Grievance #0639 Skilled Trades subcontracting TBB shall abide by Art. 19 (Full Grant Settled)
6. Grievance #0677 K. Pemberton all disciplinary action removed (Full Grant Settled)
7. Grievance #0659 D. Cassano disciplinary suspension expunged from his record (Full Grant Settled)
8. Grievance #0669 M. Hedrick suspension (Full Grant Settled)
9. Grievance #0646 L. Reynolds skill trades rate of pay \$21.80 back pay \$93.45 (Full Grant Settled)
10. Grievance #0648 P. Brown Dept. 66 all job duties restored (Full Grant Settled)
11. Grievance #0681 L. Wall expunged his record and back pay for time lost (Full Grant Settled)
12. Grievance #0676 J. Reeves transfer worker TBB will go by senior (Full Grant Settled)
13. Grievance #0718 B. Shipman skipped on over time 8.5 back pay (Full Grant Settled)
14. Grievance #0740 G. Ross discretionary time removed (Full Grant Settled)
15. Grievance #0850 M. Harrison unnecessary behavior by a Supervisor (Full Grant Settled)
16. Grievance #0837 S. Needham quality inspector doing Clerk work company posted Clerk 3 (Full Grant Settled)



Health And Safety

As Health and Safety Rep. I would like to thank everyone for all the hard work. 2008 brought more than its fair share of challenges to all of us, but we are stronger for having them. While we were without a Safety Manager to work with on the Company's side we were able to make some strides to improve safety here in our workplace. Now that we do have a Safety Manager, Jennifer DePolo in place to work with 2009, will be better.

I am sure everyone has heard of the BEST program. We are almost one year into the BEST and we have placed 2496 hazards into the system and 2345 of these hazards have been closed out, with 151 in process or corrected and awaiting verification for closure. This has helped us to reduce our number of recordable injuries and also reduce lost work days. In 2008 we had a reduction of 76% in lost work days, and gets us closer to our goal of no recordable injuries. Jennifer and I will be conducting training starting Feb. 2 for Supervisors, Team Leaders, and other Reps. This training is important to ensure everyone's safety and we all need to be involved.

Lee Emmons
Health & Safety Rep



Veterans

This past year your Local Veterans Committee has been very busy. We have been working closely with our Brothers and Sisters from the Veterans Committee of UAW Local 3520 in Cleveland. We are involved with helping and volunteering at the VA Hospital in Salisbury along with Local 3520 in the SIPU ward.

On September 26, 2008 we volunteered with Operation Stand Down in Greensboro at the National Guard Armory to help the homeless Veterans. The homeless Veterans were giving clothing, a hot meal, showers, a chance to sign up to receive any benefits they may be entitled too, job placement, temporary housing, and more.

In October we donated blankets and quilts to the American Children's Home in Lexington. We were welcomed with open arms by ACH-NC rep. Eddie Patton who is also a UAW member from his prior employment. The committee was shown around the Home and given information about it's history and future plans.

We are also currently involved in the Adopt-A-Highway program and every three months we volunteer to keep Surret Drive clean. This is our way of helping to keep our community clean and green.

The Veterans Committee is seeking members who are willing to represent the interest of all active and retired veterans, and their families. This Committee is dedicated to advocate the political and social concerns of Veterans. This is accomplished through Leadership, guidance and education on matter of concern such as:

- The Agent Orange Act of 1991
- The Persian Gulf Conflict
- Dependent Care
- Disabilities
- Benefits and others.



SKILLED TRADES

The Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Committee has completed the language for the Apprenticeship Program and it has been sent to the International UAW for approval. From there it will be sent to the state of NC for their approval as well. The Apprenticeship Committee is planning to visit the Gastonia plant to view their procedures and how they have implemented the program. The Apprenticeship Program will be offered to **ALL** TBB employees covered under the CBA.

Safety

We know you hear about safety all the time, but it is a necessary subject in our plants. Take the extra time to look your jobs over and protect not only yourselves but your fellow co-workers. Our Families need and expect us to return home the same condition we left. SAFETY FIRST!

Skilled Trades Committee meets the Thursday before the Membership meeting each month @ 4pm



COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Community Service Committee has stayed busy during the past year by helping out at the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Forsyth Hospital, Special Olympics, the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive and a canned food drive for Urban Ministries. We would like to thank everyone for their support. 5 individuals have worked one 3 hour shift at the Ronald McDonald Family Room. Special thanks needs to be giving to Earl Foster, who has covered more shifts than anybody.

February 2009

On February 21 three members of the committee will be taking part in the Polar Plunge at Emerald Pointe. John Crawford, Dewayne "Gabby" Walker and Lee Emmons will jump into a pool of ICE cold water to raise money for Special Olympics North Carolina. All money raised will go directly to Special Olympics. If you would be interested in supporting the cause please contact one these gentlemen and donate to the cause. If you would like to watch this crazy event all you have to do is come out Emerald Pointe on Feb. 21 and the fun should start 1-1:30.

LUPA

This newsletter was brought to you by the UAW Local 5287 Local Union Press Association (LUPA) in association with the Local Standing Committees.

To submit an article and/or pictures for consideration in the next newsletter, send an email to either the Newsletter Editor Josh Gabard at: uaw_josh@yahoo.com or to the Local5287.com Webmaster Jeff Brigman at: webmaster@local5287.com

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