

Two's News

Hello all...

this is my first issue as Two's News editor and I must apologize for my tardiness. I took on this job in November and almost immediately got shingles that sidetracked me for a spell. I was off for three months before returning to work (still in pain, although minimal) and during that time off life threw a couple more curveballs at me in case the shingles wasn't enough.

I want to start by talking about safety or lack of at Crofton. I have recently written two letters to our CEO regarding the situation and some of the goings on (i.e. near and potential near misses) that we have had to deal with. He replied to both letters and I am now waiting to see if there is any follow up as to what he replied. If you have any concerns

regarding safety or anything that you feel is not being properly addressed then I urge you to write to Joe as he said he has an open door policy.

Now...another going on that is dear to our hearts right now is contract negotiations. I know everyone has heartened feelings on what is happening, but I, as well as the executive would like everyone to try to remain calm and not speculate or spread rumours. We have an excellent group involved in negotiations and Lynn assured us there will be updates when they occur.

A reminder for all that there is a sustainable log rally in Victoria
Wednesday April 12 at 1:00pm.

Lastly, this is your paper so please feel free to e-mail (dewey@telus.net) me with any suggestions,

feedback, and more particularly letters or articles that we can print for the membership.

Thanks, Dewey

HELP WANTED

Well, here I go again. I am asking for more involvement from our membership. People need to step forward to become Shop Stewards. There have been members who have stepped up over the last couple of years, but it is still not enough. Constantly Executive members are being asked to step in and help with issues on the floor that area Shop Stewards should be dealing with, if we had a full compliment. I know too often Executives are asked to represent members or deal with

issues that Shop Stewards should be doing. It's not fair to the people we work with in our shops and departments and it puts too much burden on our Executives.

To my workmates, past and present, who have taken up the slack when I disappear on Union business, I thank you! It is common to have 5, 6, 7 people or more come into my shop or request that I come out into the field daily to deal with their concerns that area Shop Stewards should be dealing with. Just ask my workmates. So how do we deal with this? Asking members to step up is not working, everyone has excuses why they are not able to help, some are legitimate others are almost laughable.

When I first started at the mill every crew in every department had a Shop Steward, if no volunteer stepped forward it would all to juniority and the rest of the crew pitched in. Imagine that! A Shop Steward on every crew, proper representation throughout the mill, and a more involved membership. Executives could focus on what we should be focusing on,

without spreading ourselves too thin. Getting back to the question of how we deal with this issue; what, as a local, should we do? As I said, expecting members to step up is not working. Maybe then the answer is in our By-Laws. I don't like to force people into this kind of position, but it might be the right choice when it is in our best collective interest to do so. The By-Laws states we can force crews to do this, or we as executives can appoint one. Check it out, Article 10, Section 1, 2, and 3. Let's either use this language or we get rid of it. We need to know where to go with this, let's solve this issue once and for all.

Dave Benjamin

Article 10, Section 1

Each shift of each department shall elect a Shop Steward who must be a member in good standing.

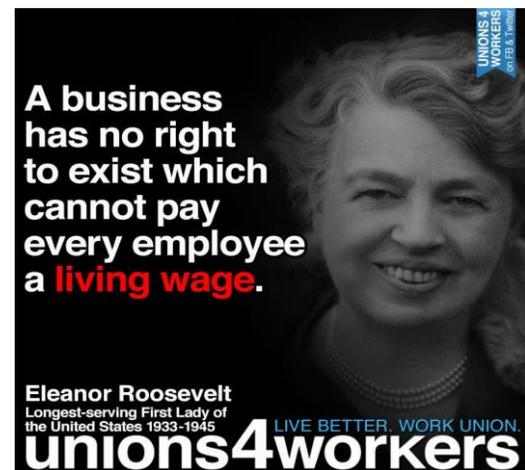
Article 10, Section 2

Elections of Shop Stewards shall take place within thirty (30) days of the

annual installation of officers. It shall be the duty of the retiring Shop Steward to call an election for this purpose.

Article 10, Section 3

The Executive Board shall be empowered to appoint Shop Stewards in any department that fails to elect a Steward within the stipulated time.



Divide and Conquer

Through all the rumblings, the rumors, the gossip and petty conversation, small talk and even bulletins, one thing has become glaringly clear: Catalyst Paper wants to break us apart. They play a game, a very well-known one, played by anyone and everyone throughout history who wants to rule, and this game is divide and

conquer.

Their goal, throughout this facility, and the rest of the company is to break us apart, to pit us against each other. They want jealousy; they want contempt, complacency, and ignorance. They want an us against each other mentality, Union fighting Union, brother vs brothers, sisters vs sisters, and all else it entails. We see it every day; Kraft won't go to help Newsprint, Newsprint

doesn't want to go to Kraft. The Steam plant won't release maintenance workers for anywhere; TMP has nobody show up on a quarterly shut. They say we're overmanned but power engineers, kraft operators, shipping operators, and machine tenders are working extra shifts. They refuse maintenance overtime, then play favorites as to who gets it after all, to inspire jealousy and hate among fellow workers.

All the while we forget the point of a Union. We shouldn't want overtime. We should refuse it, not grieve it. These grievances are petty and selfish. They're tearing us apart. We should stand together for a higher wage, so we don't waste away our lives here. If they want us to work extra hours, stay late, come in on time off, we should say NO. We need to hold them accountable and stay united. I have heard tales from more senior members and brothers in other unions echoing situations such as, they were short staffed and when the employer wanted them to stay over, all the workers refused so they could see the



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PPWC Local 2

April 2017

problem. Or, they wanted guys to perform a job that was too dangerous for the few workers they had. They stood together, and said no.

We need more workers; we deserve better wages, and more time off. We work day in and day out, of a facility that could kill us outright, maim us, or shorten our life expectancy. We work here so that together we can build a life for ourselves, watch each

other's back, make sure everyone goes home safe, and comes to work well fed and rested. We need to remember this when they tell us to work against each other, to do something because another member is "too lazy, or not brave enough", to put ourselves in danger because production is low, or to "increase the runability of the mill".

We need strength in numbers, and a willingness to say no and stand united and strong.

We are a Union, we are the keepers of our Brothers and Sisters, and we are the heart and soul of Catalyst Crofton. We need to stay together this year, and not fight amongst ourselves. Tell the company what we want, and that we're getting it whether they like it or not. We need to not move an inch. We are PPWC Local 2, and we will not be divided- we will conquer.

Name withheld by request

Note: PPWC Local 2 executive cannot and does not advocate an overtime ban. The above article is the opinion of the writer. It is up to you the reader to decide if you agree or not.

Unions are not a spectator sport.

Unions require member participation.

You aren't in the game if you're sitting on the sidelines.

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