

BUSINESS AGENT'S REPORT - AUGUST 2006

Welcome back after our summer break.

My report tonight will be short as I have just returned from vacation.

My last report to you was at our June Union meeting and at that time I reported we had a tentative agreement with Buckeye. I could not report the details as it had not yet been presented to the membership. That contract is now ratified and we agreed to a three year roll over agreement, with all terms and conditions remaining the same, except the employees receive a 2% wage increase in each year of the agreement. It is then a roll over agreement except there is a 2% general wage increase in each year of the deal.

You should also know that at Buckeye we have resolved the Jason Forester termination grievance.

At Landmark we also have a new Collective Agreement which has been ratified by the members. It is a six year agreement with wage increases of 2.5%; 2.5%; 3%; 3%; 3%; and 3%. There was however a wage adjustment in each of the first two years which effectively made the increases in those two years in the range of 4.6%. We also achieved some major improvements in the dental plan and some small increases on boot allowance. We have also agreed to sit down during the fall of this year to look at implementing a pension plan for the employees.

We are also now preparing for bargaining with both Custom Paper and Iron Mountain. I will be meeting with the Iron Mountain Committee on Tuesday August 22nd. We will then schedule a membership meeting. We already have tentative bargaining dates set up with the Company.

I will be meeting with the Custom Paper Plant Committee on Monday August 28th and will then meet with the membership. We have not yet set up any bargaining dates.

At Crown Packaging we have a tentative settlement on the Pulp Trigger issue. We will be taking it forward for ratification by the members. We also just had a long term employee terminated.

At Norampac we had an employee who was terminated and the Company and Union reached an agreement that allowed the employee to return to work. The employee is now back at work and I understand he is doing well.

At Pliant we have a number of grievances outstanding. I am in the process of arranging to get the Committee in the office so we can decide how we are going to proceed. There is a lot going on in this plant right now as the Company is taking on issues they have never done in the past. It is going to be a challenging time at this location.

At Hexion we are having some problems with one of our members. I am working with the Plant Committee on this.

It is my understanding the Pioneer Plant will be moving, I believe in the New Year.

At Unisource we had a dispute with the Company about one of our members who went off on sick leave. I believe the employee is now back in the plant, working reduced hours.

I'd also like to make mention that Don Liddle, one of our Past President's and a very active member of this Local Union, will be moving to Chemainus on Vancouver Island next week. Don is now retired and we wish him well in his new home.

And finally, I'd like to thank both Tom Fulton and Otto Wittenberg for filling in for me while I was on vacation.