

BUSINESS AGENT'S REPORT - JUNE, 2007

Hexion is now down and our members are no longer working. The same applies at Sonoco Port Mellon where employees' notice period expired on June 1st.

Pliant is going down in stages, and a number of our members have already been terminated. Pliant's Bag Plant is scheduled to be completely shut down at the end of June. Their Press Dept. is scheduled to go down mid July and Extrusion is scheduled to go down in mid August. Maintenance is scheduled to remain in the plant until sometime in October.

We wish all our members well in whatever they choose to do, and I would again ask that if anyone has any leads on jobs to please forward them on to us, as we still have contacts we can forward this information on to.

We are also busy getting ready for bargaining with Pioneer Envelopes. I have now met with the Committee and we have put a tentative agenda together. We have a membership meeting set for Saturday June 23rd and sometime after this we will arrange to exchange agendas with the employer.

We continue to meet with Jamp Pharma on our first agreement. We are now in the final, and most difficult portion of bargaining. One more set of meetings should tell us if we can put this to bed.

At Crown and Norampac both memberships are in the process of deciding whether or not to remain as part of the Wage Caucus for this round of bargaining. Meetings have been held with the Crown Committee and they will have a membership meeting on Saturday July 21st. We will be meeting with the Norampac Committee on Friday June 29th and will schedule a membership meeting sometime after that.

Also at Norampac, our Darren Long termination grievance was settled without the need to go to arbitration.

At Buckeye they had a plant shutdown on June 10th and 11th and will be having another one on June 22nd and 23rd. We are also in the final stages of getting our Collective Agreements printed.

We have also now finished proof reading the Collective Agreement at Sonoco and now we just need to finalize the changes and get the finished copies out for signatures.

At Montenay there was a recent incident in the plant that could have jeopardized the health of our members. The Union got involved and the Company shut down the process. I am told the Company responded quickly and responsibly and agreed they should have consulted with at least the Safety Committee before they undertook this process.

Also at Montenay the new supervisors shift schedule is now in effect. Move ups are an issue with some members. I believe there are essentially the same number of move ups, but what would previously have been a "set" of move ups for one crew is now split between more than one crew.

Finally at Montenay the Committee is continuing to work on an overtime callout policy.

At ECP L.P. the Company has now denied the termination grievance and we are in the process of seeking an opinion as to whether or not we would be successful if we should proceed to arbitration. On the accommodation issue, the employee involved is now going in for another operation, so the issue of an accommodation has been put on hold for the time being.

At ACR Group we are dealing with a termination and suspension grievance. It looks like this will settle.

At Custom Paper we have a grievance in on the employer rolling back their prescription reimbursement benefit. We are in the process of arranging a meeting to deal with this.

At Unisource we have an outstanding grievance which challenges the way the employer is calculating the bridging benefit.

At Sulzer we have a few issues outstanding and I am dealing with the Plant Committee and H.R. Manager on these.

At Landmark we have met with the Company and have put together a pension plan proposal for members to vote on. This is not a huge monetary benefit for these members, but it is a start.

As this is our last meeting before our summer break, I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. And please don't forget the Local Union's picnic, which is set to take place on Saturday July 14th at Deas Park.