

## **BUSINESS AGENT'S REPORT - MAY, 2007**

Hexion will be closed effective May 18th, so they have one day left. As you know we have a ratified closure agreement in place, and we have had a few subsequent meetings to deal with some other outstanding issues. To my knowledge, all outstanding issues are now resolved.

At Sonoco we also now have a ratified closure agreement. This plant is now closed and out of business although our members need to remain available to be called in, as they are still being paid regular wages, as the plant was shut down before the notice period had expired. The notice period ends on June 1st at which time our members will receive their severance.

At Pliant we have not yet concluded a closure agreement but we are getting closer. At this location the plant is closing in stages, and our first group of members was scheduled to depart on May 15th.

Once again, if you know of any job opportunities, please let us know in the office so we can pass on the information.

We are also always looking for opportunities to organize, and especially so right now. If you know of anyone who works in a plant that may be interested in joining a Union please let us know. Any information we receive will be held in confidence.

We are continuing to bargain a first agreement with Jamp Pharma. To date this bargaining has proceeded much more quickly than other first agreements we have done. Having said that, we have not yet dealt with any substantial monetary issues.

It won't be long before we will be at the bargaining table with Pioneer Envelopes. Their Agreement expires on July 1st and we are in the early stages of making preparations.

At Crown Packaging we managed to resolve a grievance where the Company had disciplined one of our Committee members for the way he had represented an employee. The issue is resolved although we still need to agree with the Company on a letter that is to be sent to the Union.

At Norampac we are working on the Darren Long termination arbitration.

At Unisource it looks like the issue of employees' signing the Company's "employee conduct policy" is finally resolved. It is my understanding that we are the only location in the country that will not be forced to sign this document.

Should also note that Greg Duff is off sick right now.

At Buckeye it is long overdue, but we are finally in the process of getting their Collective Agreement printed. We are working with the Company to get this done.

At Montenay the shift engineers will be going on a new shift schedule effective June 1st. There are also issues around an incident report that has not been completed in a timely manner and callout overtime continues to be an issue as well.

At ECP L.P. we now have a termination grievance that has been submitted and are also working to have an accommodation for one of our members.

At Custom Paper the Company has recently rolled back a benefit entitlement employees have always enjoyed. We are in the process of dealing with this.

At Iron Mountain we have issues with a couple of employees. I am working with the Plant Committee on this.

At Catalyst Paper, our long term Committee member will be retiring in about one week. Good luck in your retirement Terry!

Should also make note that we are already in the process of preparing for our year 2008 bargaining. As most of you already know, next year will be a major bargaining year for us as eight of our Collective Agreements are up for renewal. Many of these are our major Agreements, and our Local will be under a great deal of strain next year. This looks to be one of the busiest periods in our Local's history.

Our office is currently under a flood watch. There is a possibility that temporary dikes may be put up around us.

And finally, as many of you already know, our office Secretary has recently taken ill. About 1 1/2 weeks ago Katherine went into the hospital with what was originally feared to be a stroke. The news is now good however, as it was not a stroke, but rather a condition where she suffered some short term memory loss. She is doing much better and is already back to work on a GRTW.