

USW NEWS

July 2010

Brothers and Sisters,

First off I want to wish Tom Lind and Doug Erlandson well with their recent retirements. Both contributed greatly to the existence and growth of both our Local Union and our refinery. We had parties for both, and Brother George Welch presented them with thoughtfully worded plaques that he had made on behalf of our Union. Both Tom and Doug will be sorely missed.

Arbitration- We had Ramiro Fuentes' arbitration June 21st. Our new International Staff Rep, Jim Woodward, did a great job presenting the case. Ramiro and Pat Mullen did well on the witness stand. Jim will be submitting the final summary shortly and then it will be a waiting game until arbitrator makes the ruling.

Ed Heddington's arbitration is July 21st; once again we feel the Union has a strong case. But ultimately it is up to the arbitrator to make a ruling on all the information that is provided by the company and the Union.

We just received the arbitration ruling regarding the Medial 80/20 grievance. The arbitrator denied our grievance and ruled in favor of the company. The complete ruling can be viewed at our Local Union Hall and on our web site (Shell Unit page).

Regarding the temporary vacancies for Console Ops (seniority still applies by contract), we have informed the company we will be moving to arbitration and are awaiting the panel selection.

Substance Abuse/Hair Testing- Last year the company informed us they were going to implement a new drug testing method of Hair Testing. The Workers Committee and our Nationwide Council were strongly against this and fought to prevent it. This last nine months, the company has answered all of our information requests, so we have bargained to impasse. They most likely will be implementing this testing by year's end.

Health & Safety- Our Health & Safety Rep. Geno Stemme has been very busy working on our behalf on numerous issues. We were finally able to come to a settlement agreement on the 2007 NEP audit. The State supported the settlement and we now have strengthened language regarding equipment inspections amongst other things.

Full details of the settlement agreement will be available at our Local Union Hall.

Medical- The Medical Committee met with Regence July 14th. We were presented with potential rate impacts due to the United Health Care Reform, it appears this reform may increase rates in the 2%-3% range above and beyond the expected annual increases. We also went over reports of our utilization this year. Reports indicate that prescription usage continues to be high and there are also a number of large claims. We will be meeting again with Regence the last week in August where we will be presented with the proposed renewal rates for 2011. I have notified Kneppler services (our broker/consultant we used last year) and they are discussing the possibility of attending this meeting.

NOB- September 13-16th we will be in Dallas attending this year's National Oil Bargaining meetings. This will be where the stage begins to be set for the 2012 Contract Negotiations. Issues will be brought forward and strategies discussed. Once again, we will emphasize the importance of being on date, and standing together not only as a plant, but as an industry and council as well.

Our annual Union Picnic is next weekend,

It's time for the United Steel Worker's Local 12-591 annual picnic. The picnic will be held on July 31st from 11am to 8pm at the Bay View Community Center 12615 C St, Bay View. This is a great time to meet your fellow brothers, sisters, retirees and guests. Share in camaraderie and solidarity that only a union can bring. If you have never been to one of these events, then come on by and enjoy the good food, drinks, kid's games, raffles and much more. Don't miss this event and if you can help with anything, please contact Chipper Darst at 360-293-3341 or 360-708-9203. For more information you can contact the union hall at 360-293-6541. Directions can be found on the Local's web site www.usw12-591.org

USW Service pins/ Tesoro 7 stickers- I am currently distributing the USW service pins the Local purchased for us, to your Shop Stewards. They will be distributing them to you as well as the Tesoro 7 Memorial Stickers.

Your Workers' Committee is currently participating in new hire interviews. The company will be hiring up to eight Operators as well as a machinist, I/E Tech, and Lab Tech. The company expects to bring these folks on board around the start of September. As always, we need to help them learn the jobs they're assigned to, and more importantly, teach them how to be safe.

As always, our monthly Union meetings take place the third Thursday of every month. The Unit meeting starts at 4:30pm, and we have been trying to end them close to 5:30 to allow those going to work the courtesy.

Be careful and cautious, day to day, task to task. Watch out for each other.
Stay safe, stay strong.

Fraternally,

Scott Johnston – Shell Unit Chair