

UNION NEWS

Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Local 410

April 12, 2007

Edited by Secretary Karen Lewis

Management needs to suck it up!

*Message from President
Phil Briffett*

Welcome to all new members of our local, especially the 17 who became members of our bargaining unit and our local as a result of the CIRB Hamilton decision. They were included with 17 others in Atlantic Canada deemed to be doing our bargaining unit work. While developing a Memorandum of Agreement with company representatives to bring this work and those workers into the bargaining unit we debated many issues. One of these important issues was net credited service. I saw this as an opportunity to discuss a **grave** injustice, the five months of service taken from us because of the strike. {The company says 4 months 26 days, I would settle for that!} I spearheaded arguments to give us back that which was unfairly and callously taken from us, our service. After those discussions the company representatives had to take our position back to senior management for approval.

Ever since our return to work from the strike on September 20, 2004 we have been told to put it behind us. There we counselors made available to help us cope and “get over

it”. Any time the strike is mentioned in the workplace we still hear the same thing from managers, get over it, put it behind you. Well I say to senior management it is also time for you to get over it as well. **It is time for the company to drop the grudge and move on.** Senior management has denied our best arguments and refuses to give us back what is rightfully ours. 4months and 26 days of service!

In the coming weeks you will see another EVI survey. I strongly advise every member in our local and our bargaining unit to send a loud message to senior management that you cannot continue to deny us our lost service and expect us to be contented employees. There are numerous boxes or places in the survey where you can insert comments. Together lets send a LOUD message to the upper echelons of this company, **enough is enough, suck it up, get over it and give us back our service!!!**

Wealth & Hellness!

*Message from VP
Mary Croke*

Over the last number of years, the union has been getting increased calls from members who are having difficulty in dealing with the Health & Wellness Group; it seems more and

more that this group is more interested in the wealth of the company, and in putting our members through hell in the name of the almighty dollar. As of late, it seems to have gotten worse! Some members who have been ordered ‘off work’ by their family doctors are being denied SDB benefits. These members find themselves in a very precarious situation whereby they are forced to decide, whether they should disobey their doctor’s orders or lose pay! Not a favorable situation to find yourself. Someone who is off sick should be concentrating on getting well. Instead they have added worry from pressure being applied from the Health & Wellness Group to get back to work. Always remember that the Union is here to help. If this happens to you, please call your steward, sub-local / unit chair or executive officer. We will do everything we possibly can to rectify the situation. We will not stand idly by while our members are harassed by wealth & hellness....ooops....health & wellness that is!

New Stewards = More Solidarity!!!

*Message from secretary
Karen Lewis*

As we mentioned in our last bulletin, your executive is

dedicated to increasing communication with our members to build solidarity in our Local. One of the best ways we have to do this is through the hard work of our stewards in the workplace. Early in the new year we began a recruitment drive for new stewards. We have had a great response and once training is complete we will have new and experienced stewards in all major areas & centers from Labrador right to Mount Pearl Square!

We will be holding a steward school is St. Johns May 25-27th, which will bring together all of our stewards, Unit and Sub-Local chairs. We still have room and would welcome any other members who would like to become stewards. If you are interested, please let an executive officer know.

\$\$ Money News \$\$

*Message from Treasurer
Bridget Rowe*

The last couple of years have been challenging ones financially for our Local. There are a number of issues that have contributed to this situation. An overall decrease in membership, increased part-time & temporary members on the lower end of the wage scale and loss of high paying positions to other provinces and to contractors are all contributing factors. Expenses have continued to increase, yet over the past 5 years our income has decreased by one third. This year we have to train new stewards, prepare for bargaining and service you, our members, throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. As you should be aware, we have posted notices of proposed changes

to our dues structure that would help provide some additional income to our local. President Phil Briffett and VP Mary Croke are doing a **SUB-LOCAL SWING** to meet with members to discuss this and other issues. At these meetings we will be voting on **proposed changes to our Local 410 By-Laws** (see an officer in your area, or contact the Union office for copies of proposed changes & dates of meetings). **We look forward to seeing you there!!!** If you need any information on our finances please contact me via the Union Office at 726-5550.

We Need Mentors!

*By Mary Croke
National Rank & File Board*

Last year, the Mentorship Program of the CEP was officially launched. The goal of this program is to match up interested CEP members (Participants) with more experienced members (Mentors) whose role is to advise and guide through the four levels of the program. If you are interested in the Union, if you want to learn and to share your ideas and experience, if you support improving our society through progressive action, if you want to help members who want to learn and get involved in the union -- this program is for you. You can find out more information about the mentorship program by logging on to the CEP website at www.cep.ca where you can also register as a Participant or a Mentor.

Retirements

We'd like to express our best wishes to sister Karen Bavis,

who recently retired. All the best Sister!

Sub-Local Swing!

Members will please be advised that President Phil Briffett and Vice President Mary Croke will be doing a Sub-Local swing to meet with members in all sub-locals & Units. At these meetings we will be voting on **proposed changes to our Local 410 By-Laws** (see an officer in your area, or contact the Union office for copies of proposed changes & dates of meetings). **We look forward to seeing you at the meetings!!!**

“Good Darts!!!!”

The Annual **Eddie Lawlor Dart Tournament**, held at the Star Of the Sea Hall on March 31st was a huge success!!! One of the biggest tournaments in recent years, we were happy to see all of the usual teams, and a lot of new faces as well!**The championship game was between the Semi-Bulls** (Wade Cook, Jim King, Robert Molloy, Sean Wong & Marty Joy) and the **Bay Boys** (Brian Meadus, Gary Finn, Ray Hawco, Joan Lundrigan & Roy Akerman). **Congrats to the winners the Semi Bulls!!!** We also want to sincerely thank organizers **Susan Rice & Connie Thorne** who organize the tournament every year... sisters, it keeps getting bigger & better because of the work you both do, so thanks very much!!!

If you have something you'd like to see in the Local 410 Union News please contact secretary Karen Lewis at the Union Office!