

RETIREE NEWS

By: Karl Dyksterhouse

I had the following e-mail forwarded to me that I thought might be of interest. Its origin from one of our retirees, Dave Balkon. It was an invitation to maintenance supervisor, Mike Cole. Dave is inviting him to a monthly breakfast attended by a number of our retirees up in Cedar Springs. The e-mail is a response to that invitation and tells a little bit about what is still going on in the plant.

Response from Mike Cole to Dave Balkon:

Dave,

I can't make it Thursday, my boss is on vacation. Since we are on 10 hours now, I normally start at 5:30 a.m., work until 4:00 p.m., so that probably wouldn't work anyway. What's happening now is contractors are removing presses, working on OO-3, CC-1, JJ-1, G-1, P-1. Our small maintenance crew is working on taking out CTL, parts of CO-3, parts of Z-1. TDO is winding down, and should be completely done on December 18. Some diemakers are transferring to Flint TDO on December 7. All the paragraph 96 moves must be done on that date. Just a couple maintenance people transferring, leaving whoever is left to remain until the end, which is supposed to be around June 2010. All the presses are supposed to be dismantled in the Feb – April timeframe, depending on the press. The DVC in TDO will also be relocated. The GM maintenance people will be responsible for the loading of truck for shipment to the plants. Most of the activity during the last 2 to 3 months will be shipping press parts. We have a yard tour today with MLC (Motors Liquidation Corp, the old GM) because they want to clear out all the scrap and get their money out of it. It would be nice to do that before it snows, but I doubt it will happen that fast.

I have been given another assignment, it is that of asset disposal team leader, which will probably keep me here until spring. That's in addition to my FMR duties and Site Utility Manager (Powerhouse) jobs. We have been working diligently to really tighten up the building envelope this fall, since there will be no production equipment to create any internal heat this winter. We are supposed to maintain a 60 degree temperature, according to the lease holders of the presses. This will keep rust from forming on that equipment. We don't own the presses we are relocating, they are leased. WFG has had a 10 man 3rd party maintenance crew since August, and they have actually been doing a very good job for us. Bob Pavlovic came out of retirement to head up that crew, which was a big help. I keep getting asked about the auction that we were supposed to have this fall. It is looking like it will be next year, and my feeling is it will be after we have shipped all the presses to the other plants. That would make it summer at the earliest, in my opinion. I will let you know when I know more, I assume some of the guys might be interested. Tell them I said hi. If you or they have any questions or concerns I might be able to help with, just let me know.

Take care,

Mike

Response back to Mike from Dave:

Mike,

As far as maintenance people go, how many 10 hour shifts are you running, do you shut the plant down after the 4 days, and last but not least, who is still there?

Response back to Dave from Mike:

Dave,

Most of the plant works Monday to Thursday. Most people are on days, a few on second shift. Of course, TDO still has to get OT, so they have some people working Friday and Saturday. They are the only ones working over 40 hours. People left that you know are: Nickels and Dave Weber in the tractor shop. Dan Boulton, Vince Cody, and Kurt Balderon all Truck Repair working in the plant as maintenance helpers, and then the following:

Tom Deboer-EL	Harry Demeester-EL	Chad DeRidder-MW
Dave Eppinga-MW	Chuck Erway-EL	Marc Farren-PF
Larry Forrester-MW	Ernie Gilson-PF	Rod Goebel-PF
Bob Habel-MR	Terry Hug-MW	Joe Miller-PF
Rick Mouw-EL	Steve Neymeiyer-MR	Dean Obenauf-PF
Joe Raymond-EL	Jeanie Rector – EL	Dan Rothwell-EL
Gerry Skelonc-EL	Ed Snider-EL	Mike Taylor-MR
Don Teunis-EL	Kevin Waller-EL	Gerry Weber-MR

In solidarity,
Karl Dyksterhouse

In Memoriam:

Local 730 UAW would like to extend their deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and friends of our departed members:

Timothy Weaver	10-23-09	John Ritsema	6-13-09
Wayne Meeuwssen	10-04-09	Charles Burke	4-30-09
Donald Hoezee	10-11-09	Helen Chmielewski	3-26-09
Arthur Mullennix	10-25-09	Pearl Cunningham	4-26-09
Verlee LaGrone	10-19-09	Robert Fisher	3-26-09
Eugene Batchelder	8-21-09	Richard French, Sr	5-26-09
Robert Perigo	9-17-09	Robert Oakes	4-19-09
Norman Williams	9-22-09	Elsie Ross	4-27-09
John Conley	10-5-09	Jerome Weaver	4-24-09
Harold Teeter	10-27-09		
Raymond Geasler	7-27-09		
Harold Bosscher	8-15-09		
Roy Cooper	8-23-09		
Patrick Fray	9-16-09		
Conrado Cantu	7-12-09		