

## RETIREE'S REPORT

### *January 2010*

We had a special guest at our meeting this month. Chuck Deitrich, the chief steward of Light Metals Unit of U.A.W. Local 19 came to thank Local 730 and especially the leadership for all of the support that we have given them since they were locked out of their jobs last fall. President Greg Golembiewski, Shop Chairman Marty Green, Shop Committeemember John Wiedmayer, Financial Secretary Larry Palmer, and Chief Trustee Walt Cummings have been very faithful in bringing the picketers coffee, doughnuts, and occasionally pizza to their picket lines. He gave us a little insight into the predicament they find themselves in. Just five years ago they were locked out by the same management team there and ended up taking severe concessions just to get their jobs back. When that contract expired last fall they were faced with the same situation. No bargaining, cut your wages to 1980 levels, pay for your own insurance, freeze your pensions, etc. with absolutely no bargaining on a new contract. They soon found the doors locked and replacement workers were brought in to man up production. Not a pretty situation and very obviously one where they are trying to force the union out. All of this for people who have given their working years to keeping Light Metals in business. Chuck stated that all his people were looking for ways to get their jobs back and it doesn't look too promising. For now they are existing on strike pay which if memory serves me isn't very much. It's been almost 40 years (1970) since our members had to endure anything more than a one or two day work stoppage, so it is hard for many of us to imagine what these people are going through. Our prayers go out to them and we hope that their situation rights itself shortly.

The U.A.W. is hosting a retirees' conference up at Black Lake in April. It starts on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and concludes on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Transportation is provided by bus and there is no cost to the retiree. The expenses are paid for out of the voluntary \$2 per month retiree union dues. At the January meeting we asked for those that are interested to sign up. We will have a sign up at the February meeting as well. Early in March we will select 10 delegates from the sign up sheets. Retirees who have never attended these conferences before will be given first priority. If you have read your Solidarity magazine you may have noticed the article about putting Black Lake up for sale. This could very well be the last year that Black Lake will be available, so if you would like to visit the facilities this might be your last chance. It is a beautiful place, the food and lodging is top shelf, and from what I hear the conferences are great too. To be considered, you have to let us know you are interested.

We are going to look into the possibility of putting on a night at the Whitecaps this summer. A weekday night during the first part of August has been suggested as a good time to do it. We will check their schedule and availability and see what kind of package can be put together as far as food and a game ticket. No, their GREAT BIG BURGER is not going to be on our menu! It sounds like it could be a lot of fun so keep this in mind.

We have an opening on our Executive Board for a Trustee. We will be holding that election at our March meeting. Our board is changing as we have had three board members pass

away since the last election in May 2008. If you have some energy and are willing to put it to work come to that meeting and get your name in the hat.

Sheila reminds me that surviving spouses of deceased members have to contact her if they want to continue to get UAW mail after their spouse passes away. Also, if you have a change of address be sure to get that to her also.

Angie VanArnam has done a great job re-doing the local's website and maintaining it. This is no easy task and the best way we can thank her is to use it. My suggestion is that you check it periodically as there is no definite date as to when information is put on there. If you are reading this, you know how to get to the site and my other suggestion is to bookmark it as a favorite. I plan on using it as a way to keep in contact with you. Benefit Rep Lauri Veneman uses it to bring you updated information on benefit issues as well, and we all know that there have been plenty of those. President Greg Golembiewski will use it as a means of communication too. One other feature of the website is the "In Memoriam" page. We are doing our best to keep you up-to-date on our members who have passed away. As we all get older, the obituaries become more important to us.

Fraternally,  
Karl Dyksterhouse

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