



Solidarity Today!

Bargaining Information for Members of the Local Unions at Simpson-Tacoma Kraft
July 29, 2009

Let the Games Begin!

Tuesday, July 28th, 2009, the USW and Trades locals met separately with the representatives of the Company to exchange agendas for the upcoming negotiations.

“... the USW and Trades locals met separately with the representatives of the Company to exchange agendas...”

The meetings took place at the IBEW Union Hall near the Tacoma Mall. The USW locals met with the Company at 9 A.M. until 11 A.M..

In attendance for the Company were: Mill Manager, John Conkle; Pulp Mill Manager, Jim Hilton; Paper Mill Manager, Kent Morrill; Maintenance Manager, Larry Larson; HR Manager, Jim Burg; Assistant HR Manager, Bettye Hartwell; and corporate HR representative, Greg Ballard. The Chief negotiator for the Company is attorney Lynn Ellsworth of the firm Gordon, Thomas and Honeywell.

In attendance for Local 237 were: President, Jason Taylor; Vice President Dave Van Pevanage; Recording Secretary, Bob Summers; and Trustee, Chuck Whitt.

In attendance for Local 586 were: President Tim Handy; Chairman Bill Williams; Standing Committee members Kelly Kenyon and Mark Crosby.

Chief Negotiator for the USW locals was Jim Woodward, USW International Representative.

The first meeting with the USW locals consisted of swapping agendas. We gave the Company a copy of our agenda and went over the items one-by-one, starting with the union language issues and continuing on through the union economic issues.

The Company proposed making all employees take the direct deposit option and eliminating the distribution of checks at the mill.

The Company started off by explaining how they hoped to see these negotiations proceed. John Conkle read a prepared statement wherein he acknowledged the cooperative practices we have had in past negotiations; the investments Simpson has made (\$400 million) in the mill since acquiring ownership; the outlook for production and profit in the next couple of years (reflective of the overall economy), as well as the Company focus in negotiations (labor costs and maintenance). Mr. Conkle also stated that the Company would not be seeking any substantive concessions, but would seek to contain costs to the shareholders. They then passed out their agenda, which focused on changes to the jurisdictional language (Section 4) of the USW Labor Agreement, as well of some cleanup of some contract language that may no longer be applicable. They further proposed eliminating the picking-up of pay checks by employees and making direct deposit the only option. No formal economic package was offered as part of their proposal other than the vague “keep the mill competitive” statement made by their attorney.

The Company met later that afternoon (noon until 2 P.M.) with the representatives of the Trades locals.

In attendance for the Operating Engineers were: Nolan Walz and Mike Meckes. Representing the IUOE Local 286 was John Thompson and for IUOE Local 612 was Todd Mickelson.

In attendance for the Electricians was John Shelman. Representing the IBEW Local 76 was Dennis Callies.

In attendance for the Mechanics was John Morrow and Bernie Gerstenbauer. Representing the IAM District 160 was Dan Morgan.

In attendance for the Pipefitters was Dan White. Representing the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 26 was Mark Canonica.

In attendance for the Boilermakers was Jim Davis. Representing the Boilermakers Local 104 was Tim Kessler.

In attendance for the Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters was Service Representative Chris Lambert.

The Company representatives remained the same as stated earlier.

The Trade's meeting with the Company followed along the same lines as the earlier meeting with USW locals. As they did in the meeting with the USW locals, the Company also proposed to change the jurisdictional (Section 4) language in the Trade Union's Labor Agreement. Their stated purpose was to have more cooperative work practices in the mill. No further explanation was given at this early stage.

Also on the Company's proposal, as with the USW meeting earlier, is some cleanup of language in regards to eliminated jobs, and expired medical and retirement language. The Company also proposed direct deposit as the only payroll option for the Trade's member, as they did with the USW's members.

We recognize that this brief description probably raises more questions than it answers, but we're still only at the beginning. What happened Tuesday was nothing more than setting the stage for the true negotiations to begin next week. We will endeavor to keep our members fully informed. Watch for the next CAT newsletter!

First Negotiating Session Set for the Week of August 3rd

The USW's first negotiating session with the Company is set for Tuesday, August 4th, 2009 at a place yet to be determined. A second meeting may take place Friday, August 7th, 2009 if the negotiators on each side of the tables can coordinate their schedules.

No firm date is set to begin the Trade's negotiations as there are many parties that must coordinate their schedules. The Trade's group is working diligently to set a time and date for their initial negotiating session.

*Red T-Shirt Day begins Sunday, August 2nd with D Shift.
Show your solidarity with your Bargaining Committees,
Wear Red!*

**Solidarity
Today!**

“The Company is proposing to change the jurisdictional language in Section 4 of the Labor Agreement to augment their “cooperative work practices.”