

DUTU NEWSLETTER

March 2011

March 17, 2011

General Membership Meeting
 March 24th
 Elgin High School
 5:30pm

Please get your contact information to your Association Rep. (AR)

April 5th
 School Board Elections

Don't forget March 31st paycheck will be received on March 25th

Reminders & Important Information

Our unity Dinner was a success. Thank you for your time and all the great food.
 Lovetta

Monthly gift baskets being raffled off.
 Buy your raffle tickets today.
 1/\$1.00
 6/\$5.00
 See either Wendy, Heather or Cindy

**Coming In April....
 Union will be selling windbreaker jackets, hats, jean shirts, polos and more**

To Lyle Moseman, DUTU President;
 In regards to our conversation last night about our bargaining team. I have already been giving some thought to this because of my current health situation and I have decided to step down from my position on the DUTU bargaining team.

In the time that I have been off work on medical leave I have been doing research about the districts financial situation, reading books about bargaining and preparing for my role on our bargaining team. I have invested my time so that I could do the **best** job as one of our representatives. But, even though I have done the work for this, I believe that it is in the best interest of our Union that our **WHOLE** team be available when both sides decide to begin bargaining, and that time is, for now, uncertain.

With my upcoming surgery I may not be available and I would NOT want to let my Union down if I were unable to attend these important meetings. And so I will step down from the bargaining team and leave you to find another responsible member to take my place.

I will, however, remain your Vice President and will continue to help you as much as I can. Please tell our fellow Union members to continue to call with questions or problems or just fire off an e-mail if they have information to share. I believe in following through with my commitments to you and our Union and even though I cannot be there with all of you everyday, I will honor that commitment with pride. I would highly appreciate it if you would post this by the time clock. It is important to me that the Union members are clear with the reasoning behind my stepping down from the bargaining team. Also, please thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes. I am truly thankful for all of them.

Respectfully,
 Donna Frey, DUTU Vice-President Page 1

Governing Council Members:

President: Lyle Moseman
Vice President: Donna Frey
Secretary: Brenda DelHotal
Treasurer: Carol Gunn

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Health & Safety: Betty Skyles
Newsletter: Heather Bayer
Grievance: Open
Sunshine: Sue Olson
Staff Development: Janet Lewandowski
Membership: Tammy Clinton
By Laws & Legislation: Open
Audit: Linda Turnquist
Field Trips: Dan Umbach
Decorating & Social: Sara Rodriguez
Accident Review: Cindy Moseman
Election: Open
Benefit Resources: Laura Taets
Student Discipline: Sue Hamm
Association Representative (AR): Liz Mole

BARGAINING TEAM

Brenda DelHotal
Jim Burns
Heather Bayer
Sue Hamm
Jay Niehus
Ed Comiza
Lyle Moseman
Dave Ramis
Carol Gunn

LABOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Lyle Moseman
Heather Bayer
Jay Niehus
Brenda DelHotal
Wendy Skornia

List of cards that were given on behalf of our union

January 2011

Jennifer Toy & Josh Besch – congrats
Tammy Ortiz – get well
Norene Sikora – get well
Cheryl John – get well
Debbie Rodriguez – get well
Melanie Meyer – get well
Norene Sikora – sympathy
Sally Schulga – sympathy
Sonja Vargas – sympathy
Pam Matheau – get well
Tyrone Harris – get well
Melanie Isabel – get well

February 2011

Evelyn Rodriguez – get well
Karen Moose – get well
Kim Moore Sowers – get well
Joanne Novak – get well
Linda Ellett – get well
Mark O'Farrell – get well
Niki Gray – get well
Jackie Selvick – get well
Donna Frey – get well
Laura Holm – sympathy
Lyle Moseman – President Day

March 2011

Stan Haczela – get well
Lakesha Isabell – get well
Greg Stout – get well
Carin Bjorn – sympathy

Health and Safety Committee

Stress on the Job

There is a lot of stress these days related to our job. We have had a loss of income, our equipment is getting old, our space is becoming too small, even the chairs are in short supply and falling apart.

So this is a time when we all need to remember that it is every man for himself, it's dog eat dog, and it is time for every one to fight for their fair share! If there is something going on in the drivers room that is not in keeping with your beliefs and values be as intolerant as possible. And by all means run directly into the office and force their hand to intervene. Make sure to ruin it for everyone.

Keep in mind that there are many more ways to lower moral even farther, lower self esteem and make coming to work a drudgery. Here are some good examples, use the radio to put people in their place, exclude everyone who is not a part of your circle of friends, be sure to be critical of anyone who is making mistakes or having trouble with something, just a few discouraging words should do it. If there is something going on and you don't have facts just give it your best guess and be sure to implicate who ever you want.

It is my hope that this made you smile and made you think. If just 400 people can not coexist peacefully how can we ever have peace on earth. Look past the things that make us different, treat every one with kindness and lower the stress.

Betty Skyles

Attention all budding writers interested in doing a regular column for our newsletter.

There has been a lot of interest in revising our old 'Barry's Interview' column. One of our, now retired members, Barry Birchfield, interviewed and submitted in our newsletter a short biography of one of our fellow transportation employees.

We would like to expand our readership by submitting this regular column in a local syndicated newspaper. This idea has been a success in another Illinois School Bus district with a continued loyal following. This column will give our neighbors and parents an opportunity to become familiar with the dedicated and professional people who work and live in their community.

Aside from offering an interesting column, this can have a positive impact when it comes to a neighbors decision making on referendums and elections.

I was delighted to learn, in a previous interview, that our own Dennis Hayden, had been a Russian interpreter while serving in the military. Who would have guessed?

If you think you might be interested in taking on this role, please contact me.

Liz Mole 847-971-5398

Unions Under Attack

As many of you should have heard by now, labor unions have been under attack by state governments. Although Wisconsin has been making most of the national headlines, they are not alone. Many other states are doing it as well.

- Idaho's House of Representatives passed a bill that will strip unions of their collective bargaining rights. That bill, which will keep teachers from bargaining their salary and benefits, is currently just waiting for the governor's signature.
 - Iowa is looking to pass a similar bill. It will strip unions of most of their collective bargaining rights. The bill includes a provision that will keep public employees from bargaining over their health insurance, outsourcing, and layoff procedures. It will also allow "free agent" workers to create their own side agreements with employers, bypassing the unions.
 - Michigan was, and may still, attempt to pass a bill where "Emergency Financial Managers" (EMR's) would be taking control over the operations of cities and school boards the state believes are in a crisis. On the surface the bill sounds innocent enough. Underneath the façade, the bill would give these EMR's the power to dissolve the governing bodies of cities and school boards. They will also have the ability to nullify collective bargaining agreements, and implement new agreements that would remain in affect for 5 years AFTER the EMR leaves.
 - Ohio is in the process of passing a bill that doesn't eliminate collective bargaining rights, but completely eliminates any recourse a union may take if an agreement can't be made. The bill makes public sector union strikes ILLEGAL! If you, as a union worker, take to the picket lines, you may be detained and jailed for 30 days. And to add insult to injury, you would also be fined 2 times your pay for everyday you strike.
- This anti-union movement is moving across the country. California, Nevada, Washington, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Florida, Massachusetts and Maine have all proposed bills that will restrict union's bargaining rights. Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, and New Jersey have proposed bills that will negatively affect unions in some way.

Wisconsin is in the public eye more than other states. The voters in Wisconsin and other states have been taken by surprise with these bills. Governor Scott Walker did not make "sweeping collective bargaining rights" part of his political platform during his campaign. And like most of the other governors, Scott Walker hid his true intentions behind "budget repair bills." In response to the "repair bill," Wisconsin teachers unions offered to make benefit concessions, as long as their bargaining rights stayed in tact. Walker immediately refused, saying their bargaining rights must go in order to balance the budget. Less than a month later Walker and the State Senate removed the bill's fiscal elements, leaving only the collective bargaining rights and employee increases for pensions and health insurance. They were able to bypass the state's requirement for 20 senators, to take a fiscal vote. Wisconsin's labor unions, along with non-union workers have come together, and are diligently working to recall senators. As of February 25th, they have 60 days to collect over 20,000 signatures, in order to recall 16 senators, 8 democrats and 8 republicans. They can only recall those senators who have been in office for more than 1 year. Although many are counting down the 9 months and few weeks that are needed, in order to begin the process of recalling Scott Walker. That petition will take 500,000 signatures.

Continued.....

The nationwide attacks on unions have to move us beyond divisive politics. Republican, Democrat, Conservative or Progressive, what ever your political affiliation, it should no longer matter. This is about our ability to provide for our families and ourselves. Many of the anti-union supporters argue that unions are destroying the middle class. But in my perspective we are all that's left of the working-middle class, even though many are struggling to make ends meet. Now is the time when all unions, our union, need to come together and work as one. For some of you this is only a temporary job, until you finish school or find something else. Some of you made this "job," your career. Regardless of the reason why you chose to work at U-46 Transportation, it has provided us with health benefits, pensions and good pay. We all need to find a way to contribute no matter how small it may seem. As of recently we have all been given AR's. Speak to them, ask questions, and give them your input. Your AR's are there to relay information to our governing body. And the governing body is there to REPRESENT US. In order for them to represent us accurately they need our input. We have bargaining coming up and with everything that's happening across the nation, we need to stand together. So even if you cannot give a lot of your time, it is important that you participate.

Viridiana Bermudez

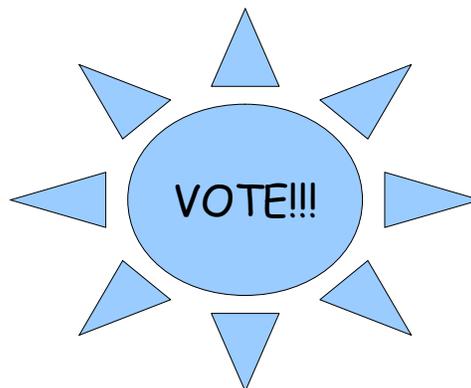
School Board Election, April 5th

The U-46 school board elections will soon take place. I recently learned that because of the historically low turnout for these elections, if all eligible voters in our department turned out to vote, our numbers could determine the outcome in this election. This election, more so than others, may have a direct impact on our livelihood.

It is important that we become familiar with these candidates and then elect those who are sympathetic to our position.

We cannot expect to get the results we want if we don't participate in this crucial election.

Liz Mole



Getting Started

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who took part in the Association Representative orientation.

We appreciate your enthusiasm and willingness to be a part of the line of communication keeping our members connected and informed as to important information effecting them and their families lives.

As an example, had we been paying attention to the plight of our union brothers and sisters in Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa, New Jersey, Indiana and Tennessee we would have been aware that their candidates for governor were running on the platform of "a right to work state," or in other words, getting rid of unions. Had the other Illinois candidate for Governor won the election, unions representing the public employees in our state could very well be fighting for their very existence.

In light of what is happening in these states, we need to be proactive rather than reactive, that is, we need to take a more active role in determining which political candidates, sympathetic to our cause, get elected. As a collective body, our numbers can strongly influence the outcome of many elections. Our A/Rs will help make that happen.

Please understand that any information that the A/Rs are requesting is not meant to be intrusive, we simply want to make it easier to exchange information. The new A/Rs are in the process of contacting all of the members assigned to them. If you have not been contacted as of yet please leave your name in my mailbox and we will correct the oversight as soon as possible. In the near future we will post on our union board a photo of all A/Rs with the list of those they are representing. One of our driver-trainers has suggested that she direct new employees to the A/R chairperson so that they can be assigned an A/R to help answer their questions and make their transition easier. The input we have had from new employees regarding this confirms that this procedure should be implemented. Thanks Liz Mole

Below is a list of those willing to represent our members (A/Rs)

Delores Allen	Barbara Barwig	Heather Bayer	Debra Beaupre	T.J. Stricklin
Shawn Bernhardson	Mary Boyd	Debra Briggs	Stanley Burnidge	Laura Taets
Colette Cruz	Matt Davis	Earl Flackus	Carol Gunn	Janis Thompson
Virginia Howard	Frances Jackson	Christine Jones	Vicky Keppner	Linda Turnquist
Ruth Saldana	Lisa LePore	Connie Lohs	Sharon McHale	Sally Voel-Pel
Cindy Moseman	Lyle Moseman	Mary Mosley	Linda Quezada	Paulette Walsh
Wendy Skornia	Betty Skyles	Gary Snyder	Tammy Spencer Ortiz	Cathy Wozniak