



CONTRACT 2013



DISTRICT LODGE 26 AND ITS AFFILIATED LOCAL LODGES 700 & 1746

Rejected - Job Security

“You can take a turd and roll it in powdered sugar – but that doesn’t make it a jelly donut.” That was IAM chief negotiator Mike Stone’s reaction to management “proposals” supposedly addressing major holes in seniority language. The problems led to trampling the rights of workers in the CAN Module re-organization.

The Union could not have been more clear in its response. “We are not going to sit through another CAN fiasco ever again. If you don’t correct it – shame on you!” As IAM chief negotiator Mike Stone pointed out, this problem could happen again in any other business unit unless corrected. Management did not budge.

In the meantime, company negotiators complained that the noise level in the shop could threaten employees with hearing damage. They hear you, but the question is, “Are they really listening?”

IAM chief negotiator Mike Stone said, “Listen to your employees. They are sending you a clear message. Do not underestimate the resolve of our members.”

Brother Stone continued, “We are sick and tired of partnering with this company and seeing jobs leave the state.” He told company negotiators that the IAM had helped secure millions of dollars in contracts – on the Air Force tanker and the F-35, including sole sourcing of the engine for that program. Still work continues to disappear.”

Stone said if the company wanted quiet in the shop, it was easy to do – address the issues that are leading to the outrage being vented by their dedicated, long-service work force. It’s time for management to deliver on REAL Job Security – including an absolute floor of 3000 bargaining unit jobs in Connecticut.

It’s also time for management to back off of proposals that dump huge cost burdens on workers’ backs for health insurance.

Management made one significant move at the table today – agreeing to bridge broken time for workers laid off and later hired back after their recall rights expired. This seniority repair for promotions, shift preference, layoff and recall would impact about 20% of the membership. The company does not want to implement this change until January 2015.

All in all, negotiations are moving too slowly, with management defending bad contract provisions and refusing to respect the value of the workers who have made this company rich. Bridging seniority is good, but not enough to make this an offer worth accepting on Sunday. The company needs to get serious now – or face serious consequences.

Make sure management knows – we are not going to eat a “jelly donut.” We need an agreement that both sides benefit from. Time is running out.

Get It Done – NOW!