



LOCAL 175 DAYTON, OHIO

NEWS-REPORT

March 2008

JMSS CONCERNS

JMSS continues to have numerous unanswered concerns. Several issues have been brought to management's attention with no corrective actions taken. Things have not improved. We are still waiting on feedback from Gary Stephenson regarding these concerns. Topics of concern are poor communication, lack of consultation, lack of respect, no management accountability, failure to follow safety procedures and failure to abide by agreements made with Local 175.

We continue to meet with Gary Stephenson as well as other members of DP&L management and will continue to hold the company accountable for their actions. Your input and feed back is critical to working toward resolution of these problems. Let your union representative know if you or any other member are asked or forced to work unsafely. We will continue to work toward resolving these differences.

DP&L NEGOTIATIONS SURVEY

There's still time to submit a survey to the Negotiations Committee for members who work for DP&L.

You can download it from the Local 175 web page. You may give your survey to your Area Representative, e-mail to local175@swohio.twcbc.com, or mail it to the union office. Surveys will also be available at each monthly membership meeting.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON APRIL 17

The membership meetings are normally the second Thursday of the month. However, in April the meeting will be on **April 17** due to a scheduling conflict.

Mark your calendar, plan to attend and bring a friend!

LOCAL 175 CONTINUES TO HAVE INPUT IN THE RE-REGULATION BILL

It was previously reported that an important bill is being discussed in the State of Ohio relating to re-regulation of the electric utility industry. Based on history in other parts of the country, it is anticipated that the cost of electric due to de-regulation could go up in Ohio 20-60% unless the re-regulation bill becomes law. The bill, introduced in the House, was passed by the legislature. Now the bill (Senate Bill 221) is currently in committee. Representing Local 175, George Whalen, a retired Local 175 member, testified in front of the Senate committee working on this bill. The Local 175 web page has George's testimony for your review.

A Message from Kelly Cooper, President, Local 175

The Executive Board for Local 175 is the "Grievance Committee" for the Union. The responsibility of this group is to review all issues/grievances which are submitted by members of Local 175. Article VI Section 5 of the Local 175 By-Laws requires the Grievance Committee to "make a full and complete inquiry into the merits of all grievances/issues that are referred to it and determine if said grievances/issues shall proceed to mediation and/or arbitration." The decisions are based solely on the facts of the grievance/issue – personalities and personal opinions of the individual are not considered. In cases of termination or other forms of discipline, a review is also made as to whether the level of discipline was appropriate based on the offense. We will represent all members in a fair and even-handed manner.

LOCAL 175 UNVEILS NEW WEB PAGE

If you're reading this newsletter, you already know about the new web page for Local 175. We are very excited that the web page is up and running. We will continue to update the information found on the web page in an effort to improve communications with you, the members.

We need your feedback. Let us know how we can improve the web page. You can call your area representative or send an e-mail to local175@swohio.twcbc.com.

PAULA GREENE APPROVED AT MARCH MEETING AS TRUSTEE

Local 175 announced in February that the position of Trustee vacated by the retirement of Donnie Christman would be filled. Eight members submitted their names to be considered for the position. Each member who chose to participate was interviewed by the Local 175 Executive Board on March 13. After the interview process, the Executive Board voted to recommend Paula Green. Paula works at Stuart Station as an IC (Internal Consultant). Prior to accepting the position of IC, Paula was an Information Processor. Paula has been a member of Local 175 for 17 years. We welcome Paula to the Executive Board!

UTILITY WORKERS UNION STEPS UP ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

The Executive Board for the National UWUA has taken steps to increase its organizing efforts. Local unions across the country have recommended members to assist the National with its organizing efforts. Donnie Christman retired long-time Local 175 member and Executive Board member, has agreed to participate in the organizing campaign. "I am honored to have been asked by Kelly Cooper to participate and will assist the National in whatever capacity they need. Organizing the unorganized is so critical to the continued existence of the Utility Workers Union and all unions" said Donnie Christman. "I am so proud that Donnie will be representing Local 175 in this effort. Even though he retired, he is willing to continue to work toward the betterment of the Utility Workers Union of America. He is an exceptional union person," said Kelly Cooper, Local 175 President.

"Only a fool would try to deprive working men and working women of their right to join the union of their choice." Dwight D. Eisenhower



LOCAL 175 AT VECTREN & DP&L KICKS OFF CULTURE WORKS CAMPAIGN

Local 175 has joined with DP&L and Vectren to kick off the annual Culture Works fund raising campaign for 2008. Linda Williams, Vectren, and Becki Mount, DP&L, were appointed as co-chairs for their respective companies by Local 175. Linda and Becki both worked with their counter-parts at each company to organize the Culture Works employee giving campaigns at DP&L and Vectren. "Supporting the arts is important to both companies. Studies show the arts is the third most important factor when businesses and employees make relocation decisions," says Becki Mount, co-chair of the DP&L campaign. "I support Culture Works because of what they do to reach children. The local arts groups reach more than 400,000 school children annually. Children who are exposed to the arts are more likely to excel in life and I think that is important," said Linda Williams, co-chair of the Vectren campaign. In addition to supporting the employee campaign, the Local 175 Executive Board made a contribution to Culture Works.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Jim Peoples – Service Operations Representative Division I – reported that the contractors used as Locators have been released but will be back during the peak months; one employee transferred to the Locating Department, one has transferred out. In the Network Department, restructuring of jobs has been completed; still having problems with the vehicles; there's a plan to hire two new employees in 2008. In Telecomm Department, having problems with the fleet also. In Metro Service Department, concerns have been raised that contractors are not following DP&L's rules and procedures; this department has fleet concerns also.

Kenny Ruckel – JMSS Area Representative – reported there are major concerns at Stuart Station. In summary, there are problems with the management philosophy – the absence of credible consultation, a glaring lack of integrity and a serious misrepresentation of facts on the part of local management. Local 175 will continue to discuss their concerns in an effort to get them resolved.

Florris Fortune – Vectren Southern Area Representative reported the Service Technicians are working on the PT program. This week a step two grievance meeting was held to discuss the second shift trouble crew not being used for repair work. Florris also reported she's been trying to get the Company to hold meetings to explain all the work that's being started due to their rate case. Also being discussed is an effort to get the right kind of road signs that can be used at night. It's important for our crew to be using the new signs (when they are received). Thanks to Janice Behnken for putting out information about our employees who are sick. This helps us to remember them when we don't see them every day at work.

Adrian Alridge –Service Operations Division III Representative reported that an Electric Line Technician was suspended pending an investigation. The company is alleging that the ELT violated multiple safety standards. Adrian reminded the members to follow the safety standards including flagging and tagging, grounding lines and use of personal protective equipment.

Becki Mount –Service Operations Division II Representative reported there have been consultation meetings held in the past month. In Engineering Services, there are still on-going discussions regarding the test to promote to the Senior Design Technician position. At the last consultative meeting, management stated that the test should be ready for administration in the near future. Becki also reported on recent management changes in the CSC. She also thanked the members of the CSC for their attendance at the March Membership Meeting.

Chris Tebbe – Service Operations Representative Division II reports Vectren Northern Area Representative – reports that Welborn Insurance will be conducting information meetings with members in all areas. Chris also reported that Welborn will be distributing monthly information with alerts regarding health care concerns; Welborn will also be conducting health fairs at the area locations in May or June.

"In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, as 'right to work.' It provides no 'rights' and no 'works.' Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining. We demand this fraud be stopped" – Martin Luther King, Jr. – Speaking on right-to-work laws in 1961.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Local 175 has trained representatives available to assist members when they are injured on the job. Those representatives are:

DP&L – Adrian Alridge, Pam Brown, Aaron Cozatt, Kenny Ruckel & Bob Ratliff
Vectren – Chris Tebbe & Linda Williams

