

UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA
AFL-CIO, LOCAL 483
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
April 18, 2009
Ventura, California

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am

Flag salute lead by Gary Lerch

Roll Call:

Officers:

President, Gary Lerch
Vice-President, Mike Minor
Secretary-Treasurer, David Brown

Trustees:

Joe Pena
Vic Kingsley
Joe Armstrong

Area Officers:

Tony Arnold
Robin Downs
Bruce Cline
Mike Schneider
Bruce Lawrence
Bob Hamburger
Alberto Montano

Absent:

Troy Stallard
Manus Myanjios

Secretary-treasurers report: Minutes from the last Executive Board meeting held on January 10, 2009, was handed out to all board members in attendance of today's meeting. There were no comments or corrections.

MOTION BY ROBIN DOWNS,

"That the minutes of the meeting held on January 10, 2009 be approved as true and correct record."

SECOND BY BRUCE LAWRENCE

CARRIED

Financial Update: Financial reports for the second quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 were handed out to all board members in attendance. There were no significant changes from last quarter.

MOTION BY VIC KINGSLEY,

“To accept the Secretary-Treasurer financial report.”

SECONDED BY TONY ARNOLD

CARRIED

Trustee’s report: The trustees are asking all board members to record more information on receipt from their union meeting. As a matter of practices, names of members in attendance, and topics discussed should be included on all receipts.

The Local is spending eighty dollars a month for storage. We should look at that expense to see if it is necessary. The executive board members have decided we should move the contents of the storage to a new location, preferable in San Fernando Valley, it may be possible to scale down to a small unit.

A committee was formed consisting of Tony Arnold, Joe Armstrong, Gary Lerch, and Michael Minor. The committee will look for a new location and moving the contents in the storage unit, to that new location. May 16th was chosen as the date the committee plans to execute the move.

MOTION MADE BY MICHEAL MINOR

“To accept the trustees report”

SECONDED BY BOB HAMBURGER

CARRIED

Transmission Safety Report by Robin Downs: This year the Safety Action Committee, S.A.C, is planning three meetings. The dates and locations are as followings: May 5th at Riverside convention center, June 18th at Northern Woodland Hills, Wanner Center, and July 30th at Crown Plaza, Anaheim.

Mark Amendola is no longer on the Western Safety Committee. John Omar has been selected to fill Mark’s place.

Gary and I had a meeting with Brett Lane, Rudy Wiebel, Dave Taylor and John Dagg, the new Vice- President of Transmission. The topics discussed were training, safety and technical specialists coming into our areas to perform work.

We would like to see a program where union members are training union members in some sort of apprentice or mentoring program. The individuals doing the training would be volunteers and would not discipline fellow union members or administer tests.

The group is also looking at creating a check in sheet for all individuals who come into our area to do work. The check in sheet would provide information as to who the area and what work they performed.

Cathodic Protection Specialist and Cathodic Protection Technician jobs will not be filled at this time. There are no plans at this time to fill Senior Instrument jobs is storage.

President Leach asked the board members to put together a list of what training, site specific, is needed.

MOTION BRUCE LAWRENCE

“To accept Robin’s Transmission safety report.”

SECONDED BY VIC KINGSLEY

CARRIED

Storage Safety report: Storage is starting up a safety committee again. Bud Bennett, Mike Minor, Escobar and Manus Myanjos will represent the Union.

The committee is looking at standardizing lock out tag out. The current program is all over the road.

Other item the Storage Safety committee is looking at is the ability to track who coming into the station to do work and what work they are doing.

Old Business:

The Joint Steer Committee is proof reading the new contract.

Bulletin issued by company that stated “In order to use sick time for doctor’s appointments, those appointments need to be pre-approved and pre-scheduled. That language is what the company wanted, but was not in agreement. If the company wants to change that language they will have to wait until next contract.

Ardie Jones, a retired employee, is back working at Blythe Compressor Station. The Local is pursuing a non-president sitting agreement whereby Mr. Jones is hired as a temporary employee. His employment has a beginning and ending date and the union is receiving dues. Troy Stallard emailed me that he has filed a grievance.

Troy Stallard has missed two meetings in a row. The Local's constitution is clear, any member having two consecutive unexcused absents is removed from the Executive Board.

MOTION BY ROBIN DOWNS

"Gary Lerch will call Troy and explain to him what our constitution states about unexcused absents and question his willingness to stay on the e-board.

SECONDED BY DAVID BROWN

CARRIED

Rufus Tucker arbitration: The last vote on Mr. Tucker request for arbitration was not done in accordance to the settlement agreement reached with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, EEOC. Mr. Trucker's letter was supposed to be sent to all board members before taking a vote.

Each Executive board member was given a copy of Mr. Tucker's letter along with a ballot. Members were asked to read Mr. Tucker's letter before making a decision as to whether or not we should pursue his grievance through arbitration. The result of the vote YES: 0, .NO: 9 ABSTAIN: 4

The Secretary Treasurer will send a certified letter to Mr. Tucker advising him of the results.

New business

Alcala, Quirino was terminated due to a DUI. A protest hearing request was file on his behalf

An employee at Aliso Canyon drove a company truck into a well head. Employee was given two day off without pay. The Union filed a protest letter

Three administrative clerks requesting upgrades. Currently, one clerk is on a V-assignment. The new contract restricts the use of "V" assignments. Employees who more pay will have to bid for higher.

Brain McAnny filed a grievance. The response from Jon Garcia stated, "We have ready been down this road the matter is closed". That was the wrong response from the Field Operation Manager. Mr. Garcia didn't have the authority to arbitrarily close a matter without allowing the Union to be heard.

Joe Pena, on behalf Cindy Pinon at Beaumont Base is asking the union to support the Breast Cancer Walk. She is asking the Union to make a donation.

MOTION BY MIKE SCHNEIDER

"We, Local 483 donate two hundred dollars to Breast Cancer.

SECOND BY VIC KINGSLELY

CARRIED

The Company refused to honor my clearance. In order to attend the Joint Steering Committee meeting, I had to use a vacation day. I am asking the Executive Board to cover a one day vacation.

MOTION MADE BY DAVID BROWN

"To allow the President to take a day off at Union expense to make up for day lost."

SECONDED VIC KINGSLEY

CARRIED

MOTION BY DAVID BROWN

"Currently, we do not have an Area Officer in Goleta. I am asking this Executive Board to create an Area Officer position to represent the Goleta Station."

SECONDED BY MIKE CHNEIDER

CARRIED

MOTION BY ROBIN DOWNS

"The Local will send its three senior officers to attend the national conference in Las Vegas with the understanding that a full report will be given to the Executive Board.

SECONDED BY SCOTT HOSKINS

CARRIED

MOTION BY DAVID BROWN

"Motion to adjourn and hold our next meeting on July 18 2009, In Valencia, CA"

MOTION SECONDED BY VIC KINGSLELY

CARRIED

Meeting adjourn at 1:30 pm