



May News from Local 551 Leadership



I would like to start by saying happy spring to all of local 551 members. In this letter I want to give an update on the sewer issues that we have experienced at CAP, apprenticeship program for skilled trades and the schedule for the next few weeks in regards to the Memorial Day weekend.

Plumbing Issues

First off I would like to say I regret the fact that the membership had to endure the situation with the continuous sewage issue in the plant. When the issue started the week of May, 9th the maintenance crew did a great job of containing the issue while they looked over drawings that are 90 years old. As the week progressed it became clear that multiple issues contributed to the restroom and pipe issue in the plant. On the night of May 13th the situation was made worst by 2 inches of rain that fell in a short time. May 14th the situation was out of control and shortly after 6 am the assembly plant was shut down by myself and Justin Woods the International Health and Safety Representative. I met with the Assistant Plant Manager and the UAW leadership got the membership to the north end of the building away from the back-up while the situation was evaluated. At about 8:30 am the Assistant Plant Manager agreed to my request to release the plant and work on containment and fixing the issue. During this point the fire department and state agencies came into the plant and did test and determined that it was safe for the plant to run. I, the safety representative from the company and Kenny Harris and Justin Woods toured the plant and the affected areas were cleaned to a satisfactory level.

On the night of May, 17th at about 10:30 pm I received a call from the body shop district representative and the health and safety representative. The issue of sewage was contained at that point but I came back into the plant to take a look for myself. At midnight the issue started to escalate and I met with the off shift plant manager and made it clear the membership needed to be released before a repeat of Friday night occurred. The company agreed quickly, and the plant in final was released to go home at 12:30 am. Multiple engineering firms have been brought in to clear pipes over the last week and by May, 22 all pipes in the plant should be cleared completely. Out of all this situation one point I would like to make is that your UAW leadership has been in the trenches the whole time to protect this membership and lessons from the first night were learned by the company and UAW leadership which helped in the second emergency.

Skilled Trades

On Tuesday, May 17th the apprenticeship program was rolled out again. This was due to the hard work of our Skilled Trades Representative Mike Marzillo. The top five seniority individuals on the apprenticeship waiting list were notified, and will begin as electrician apprentices. Congratulations to the top five and we will work to exhaust the entire list as soon as possible.

Memorial Day Week Schedule

Memorial Day is May 30th and there will be not production with all seniority and LTS eligible members receiving 10 hours holiday pay for Monday. The work schedule will be Tuesday-Friday of that week. As of now June 4th and 18th are scheduled for Saturday production. As we all know these are tentative dates which can change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Sub-Council May 23-27th

For the week of May 23-27 your Bargaining Team and Skilled Trades Representative will be at sub-council focusing on the up coming contract. As always when we return the team will put together a letter with all information that the membership should know in regards to the sub-council.

In Solidarity,

Grant Morton, Plant Chairman.