

Letter from the President

I would like to thank all the members who ran in the election of local union officers, policy, and divisional chairmen. This was one of the cleanest campaigns I have witnessed in my 29 years as a member of our local. Congratulations to those who have been elected to serve the membership. Our duty will not be taken lightly.

We are moving into one of the biggest and toughest negotiations on healthcare that we will see. Our active and retiree benefits are in jeopardy. Absolute solidarity and participation is of the utmost importance in this set of negotiations. The Company will attempt to prey on anything that even slightly resembles a weakness in our local.

On June 5th the Policy Committee will travel to St. Louis to begin preparations for 2006 negotiations. We intend to meet with the Company on June 14th to exchange initial proposals.

On June 30th the Union's nine man committee from the big three rubber companies, Goodyear, Firestone, and Goodrich will meet in Pittsburgh to determine which company will be selected to set the pattern for 2006 negotiations.

In the very near future Local 310 Union Stewards will be distributing membership surveys for negotiations. Members will be able to list items in order of priority for the upcoming negotiations, with a section for any constructive comments.

Prior to the expiration of the contract on 7/23/06 all of the Master Plant Local Unions will be conducting a strike vote. The strike vote does not mean we will go on strike. By voting YES you are authorizing the President and Policy Committee Man to vote to strike as a last resort. A YES vote on the strike vote sends a message to the Company that our local stands behind their negotiators in the resolve to obtain a fair and decent contract for our members and our families.

In Solidarity,

Al Skinner