



AERO LODGE 834

SCOREBOARD

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE PLAINDEALER

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KEEPING SCORE FOR 834

SEE PAGES 1 & 2

JUNE 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTEND 2009 CONFERENCE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- **Keep in touch with your representatives/stewards concerning layoff activity**
- **Check the LL834 as well as District Lodge 70 web sites for union updates**
- **Read this issue for tips on making it through a downturn**
- **Contact QTTP any time**
- **Attend our 834 monthly meetings:**
Second Saturday of every month at:
District Lodge 70
3830 S. Meridian
Wichita, KS
E-Board Meeting 8:45 AM
Regular Meeting 10:00 AM

We MUST Work!

By Denise Harris, Editor

The 31st Annual Kansas State AFL-CIO Community Services Conference on May 13-15, 2009 in Wichita, Ks was attended by approximately 100 delegates from different labor unions and community services agencies scattered throughout the state. Delegates came from Wichita, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Kansas City, Salina and Topeka. Local Lodge 834 delegates were Community Services Committee Chair Denise Harris, Jo Wood and Ronnie Ketron. Machinists as well as brothers and sisters in the trade unions came together in solidarity to hear speakers from many different organizations dealing with the many complexities of living in a world full of changing economics.

With people who have held skilled, highly paid positions in the workforce becoming suddenly unemployed, the level of contributions to community service agencies is dropping by the day. Workers who have never drawn a dime of unemployment insurance benefits will soon be treading into unknown waters as they try to stay afloat in a country we hardly recognize. Until now, one-third of the Kansas budget has come from the aviation industry. This percentage has taken a huge hit with aircraft manufacturers' sales in a downward spiral. Although they rarely admit it and frequently attack us, Kansas also depends largely on the taxes of our thousands of union-negotiated paid citizens. Kansas

businesses, as well, depend on our generous spending. However, due to no fault of our own, just poor business management skills, the aviation industry in Kansas has declared labor surplus activities throughout all levels of aircraft with no end in sight.

For every worker laid off, an entire family is affected. A dad being laid off at Christmas means giving less to his young son who has waited all year for that special first bicycle. A mom being laid off in March means her beautiful teenage daughter will have to borrow an older sister's dress to wear to her first prom. Being laid off in May means that his first child to graduate from high school can't have that car he has been promised since he got his driver's license. Being laid off in July means their family vacation will have to be a "staycation" this year. Being laid off in August means paying for school supplies and college tuition will cut into the house payment for September. And, getting laid off in November means there won't be a huge meal to sleep off after the football game on Thanksgiving. There is never a "good" time of year to get laid off. A lot of these displaced workers are just approaching the most expensive part of their children's lives...class rings, sports team expenses, a boy's car insurance premiums, that long-awaited trip to college that you can never save enough money to cover. In addition to our growing children, there are now grandchildren we want to spoil and, if we are really lucky, our parents are still alive and we want to help them out all we can. At one of the best times of our lives, we are losing our jobs one after another. And we are scared of what tomorrow might bring instead of looking ahead toward a better, less stressful future which WAS going to bring us closer to our retirement.

I told you all that to tell you this... in a country that doesn't seem to be lifting a finger to keep jobs within our borders, there are huge leaps being made in the field of "displaced workers' assistance". Go figure that.

We learned at the conference that Kansas has gone into a state of "job loss emergency". Beginning with an address from Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer, we heard of the new "One Stop" laid off workers' center in Wichita that will service the suddenly unemployed residents of Sedgwick, Sumner and Butler counties. It opens June 1, 2009 and is located at 3622 W. Central (the former Riverside Hospital) for workers laid off since October 1, 2008. Residents of these counties can call 211 for appointments. Each will be eligible for one session per month with a representative to get help going back to work, getting retraining guidance and other assistance and information. Mayor Brewer assured us we WILL recover and come back stronger. He encouraged people to stay in Wichita if possible and keep informed of all new opportunities being made available by the government and the United Way.

There are several food-buying coops in Wichita. Two of them spoke to us: Prairie Land Food and Angel Food. To get more information on either of these organizations, you can contact a member of the 834 Community Services Committee or you can contact Denise Harris, Scoreboard Editor.

A representative of Consumer Credit Counseling Services spoke to the delegates about budgeting and surviving a broken economy. Along this same line, an account manager from Westar Energy gave us information about better energy-saving at home. A lot of the tips from both groups were things we probably already know however this is now the time to put them into practice. Brochures are available through your conference delegates. There are too many ways these days to get into debt. Avoid credit card purchases especially if you are anticipating a lay off. Try to live on a "cash only" basis. This means no checks, no debt cards and no credit. Always avoid the following: rent-to-own buying, auto title loans and payday loans. Use a workbook-style of keeping track of your income and spending so you can track your expenses.

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Community Services Committee members Denise Harris, Jo Wood and Ronny Ketron represented LL834 at the 2009 AFL-CIO Conference

More Community Services Conference Information

MORE TIPS FOR MEMBERS

Limit all your car and house expenses to no more than 50% of your monthly income. If you are laid off, CALL each one of your lenders before you become behind in your payments. They don't really want your house or car back, they want your payments coming in instead. They will usually work with you. Involve your family to help cut back on spending. Tell your kids what the situation is. They will understand that things will have to change. Unplug appliances that aren't being used. Phantom load will draw power even when things are turned off. Westar has a new programmable thermostat program going on, you can find out more from them. Fill your gas tank early in the morning. Check your child's school to see if you qualify for free/reduced lunches, tuition, activities. Review your credit score for FREE at www.annualcreditreport.com no catchy song but a 100% free report or call 1-877-322-8228. Pull all three major reports, wait a year then pull one of them every four months after that to monitor for errors or identity theft.

IAM REP SPEAKS

IAM Grand Lodge Representative Terri Friend gave a presentation on "IAM Service to the Community". Please remember that even as retirees, we are called to serve when we can and stay involved with our government as well. As younger workers, we need to ask retirees for their advice and keep

in touch with them. There is a Retiree Conference in 2010 in Las Vegas. There is also IAM training in Placid Harbor in order to help us protect our members' rights and teach them to deal with stress.

INSURANCE IDEAS

An area of stress during lay off time may be health care benefits. William Loweth, President of Employee Benefit Systems, Inc. shared information about the health and death benefits available to Machinists Union members through Custom Choice Worksite Benefits which is available to all AFL-CIO unions. The Boeing Company will not do payroll deductions for this but you can pay directly if you would like to subscribe to this type of insurance. This coverage is very interesting and you can find out more by contacting us.

RAISE THE WAGE

The second day of the conference was less full but just as interesting. Speakers from the Kansas AFL-CIO and United Way of the Plains gave reports on the activity of each organization. Jake Lowen, the Political Director of the Wichita-Hutchinson Labor Federation gave timely information about the "Raise the Wage" campaign's recent victory with the January 2010 raising of the Kansas minimum wage from **\$2.65 to \$7.25!** The Federal minimum wage increase will begin this July but Kansas will not raise until 2010. This is a huge victory for Labor. For more information on this action, go to their web site

www.raisethe wagekansas.org Jake spoke about the impact of using

social networking Internet sites to advance your message. Please join their Facebook pages to become more familiar with this type of communication. Facebook and Myspace aren't just for teenagers anymore. He encouraged us to not only share our philosophy with one another but also involve and educate those not belonging to unions. Let them see we're not only about picket lines but also service to our fellow Kansans.

"TIP EARNERS" GET NO RAISE

I asked him if "tip earners" such as food servers and related jobs will benefit by the minimum wage raise. To this he gave me a firm "NO". Tip earners can still be paid as low as \$2.13 per hour! We would like to make it a project to inform everyone to please continue to tip. I spoke with a waitress recently who has worked in California as well as Kansas. Jake supported her claim that in California they must pay minimum wage to food servers in addition to the tips they earn. Please help us remind Kansans that this is the right way and we need this changed NOW! A little more than \$3.00 per hour is pretty standard pay for a lot of tip earners. And, since most of these jobs are held by women, this practice just continues to widen the wage-margin between the sexes. I hope you will be receiving more information from our Women's Committee on this subject. In the meantime, please use your local newspapers' OP/ED pages and the social networking sites to remind people there will still be many, many workers earning well below the new minimum wage come 2010.

UNEMPLOYMENT INFO

The speakers we were most interested in hearing from were the representatives of the Kansas State

Rapid Response Services for Laid Off Workers. This was pretty much about unemployment insurance procedures and retraining benefits.

They gave us the same presentation and handouts that a laid off worker would receive at their employee out briefing or at the unemployment interview. For unemployment filing, all offices and call center lines have been closed except one telephone line. They began laying off case workers about two years ago. Most of the time, you will have to communicate electronically (on-line, pre-recorded messages, etc.) however you can now talk to a real, live person Monday-Friday 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM. These hours will change soon so keep an ear open for anything in the news concerning the unemployment system. Since unemployment insurance payments are designed to be temporary please regard it as truly "temporary". Your benefit amount is calculated based on wages you've earned during the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters. FMLA time off during that time could reduce your weekly benefit. The current available 20 week extension ends Dec. 26, 2009 but may be reinstated if the government believes it should be. Keep an accurate job-search record handy at all times, you may be asked to turn it in for review. The Dislocated Worker Program allows you to get training and

draw your weekly benefits as well. You must be in approved training to do this. I spoke directly with the representative about our unique situation because of the Quality Through Training Joint Programs (QTTP) lay off training money set aside by Boeing just for our laid off workers due entirely to collective bargaining. Because of our unusually generous amount of retraining opportunities available through our contract, she suggested we work not only with QTTP but also call the Workforce Center and ask to speak with Terry Gosh. He is familiar with our contract benefits and can coordinate the retraining money. Everything else you can access through www.Kansasworks.com Also, as you are looking for work, earn a WORKReady Certificate through the Work Force center. The brochure will be in your out briefing packet. Use everything available to you though the state as well as our QTTP office. By using the Kansas Career Pipeline, you can reinvent your working-self and connect with Kansas employers. That address is www.kansascareerpipeline.org We MUST work. Tell President Obama and our state and local representatives we must keep work in the U.S.A.

Drop a Dime

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Please call the local 524-1090 if you have a change of address or telephone number. It is very important that we have accurate contact information for you. If you are not receiving the Plaindealer at home on a regular basis, let us know. If you would like to see a topic covered in the Scoreboard, call Denise. I would love to hear your suggestions as well as your reports from committees or local news items. If you are being laid off and wish to still receive the newspapers, contact us for rates.

More Items of Interest:

The gay pride flag was designed by Gilbert Baker who is said to have taken his inspiration from the black civil rights and hippie movements. It was debuted in 1978 at the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade. Its colors, always shown in the following order symbolize:

RED = Life

ORANGE = Healing

YELLOW = Sun

GREEN = Nature

ROYLE BLUE = Harmony

VIOLET = Spirit



Retiree Sherman Hughes receives his plaque from Sister Jo Wood for his service to the I.A.M. We wish him Good Luck in the next chapter of his life!