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The Union Bug

Published for the members of the United Staff Union

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USU MEETING SCHEDULE

Board - Friday, 11/9/07, 6:00 p.m.
Radisson, Madison

Board - Friday, 1/11/08, 6:00 p.m.
Concourse, Madison

Board - Friday, 3/7/08, 6:00 p.m.
Sheraton, Madison

Board - Friday, 4/25/08, 6:00 p.m.
Sheraton, Madison

Annual - Saturday, 4/26/08, 11:00 a.m.
Sheraton, Madison

USU INVITED TO ATTEND PEGASUS CONFERENCE

During an August meeting between USU President, Fred Andrist, and WEAC President Mary Bell and WEAC Executive Director, Dan Burkhalter, Mary Bell extended an invitation for two USU members to join a team of managers and governance people to attend a workshop entitled *Amplifying Our Impact: Strategies for Unleashing the Power of Relationship*. The Conference is to be held in Seattle, Washington, November 5-7, 2007.

The USU Board approved the funding for the two people, one Professional staff and one Associate staff person, at their September meeting.

The conference will deal with how to engage others in a change process that has real meaning—and leads to real results. It will provide strategies on how to take local initiatives and amplify them and how to hear each other's voices and capitalize on each other's unique perspectives—in pursuit of mutual goals.

The USU participants will be Secretary Kathy Spannbauer and President Fred Andrist. They will give a full report to the USU Board which will appear in the next issue of the Union Bug.

"Everything about business comes down to PEOPLE. Where in business can we escape the impact of human care, human creativity, human commitment, human frustration, and human despair? There is no reason for anything in business to exist if it does not serve the needs of people."

Bruce Cryer, Re-Engineering the Human System

GEARING UP FOR WAR COLLEGE

Watch for details in the next issue of the Union Bug for who attended this year's NSO WAR College and their thoughts on the experience.

THERE ARE SIMILARITIES IN ALL UNIONS

Lou Colletti, President of New York City's Building Trades Employer Association, is a business spokesperson who believes strongly in unions and the benefits they provide not only to workers but to businesses as skilled and safe employees.

"I believe very strongly in the union movement and what it means to the backbone of this country."

He stated the recently uncovered scandals in NYC housing projects built by non-union contractors demonstrate the value of using union contractors for construction projects.

"We have standards and in many respects when we're building a job there are two sets of eyes – the eyes of the contractor who wants to comply with the law, and the eyes of the union who won't let us violate the law if we're even thinking about it."

Colletti continued by saying that unions and construction companies in New York have their differences, but they are settled at the bargaining table.

"At the end of the day we want to provide, as contractors, a quality product built on time. And the only way to do that is with skilled union labor."

"An empowered organization is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success."

Stephen R. Covey

THAT COMPUTER IN FRONT OF YOU IS NOT YOURS!



Just a reminder, that the computers supplied by your employer are just that, the employer's. Although we are allowed to use them for union or at times personal business, the employer has the right to monitor their use and explore how they are being used.

There are programs for computers that will tell what websites are visited, what e-mails are sent, and at what times. They can monitor key strokes and also retrieve e-mails after a person has deleted the messages, etc., and emptied the trash.

So as you use your computer, keep in mind, that with the right tools, your employer might just as well be looking over your shoulder.

With that said, however, you still do have rights. Should your computer use ever become an issue, contact your steward immediately for union representation.

2007-2008 COMMITTEES

Policy

Jina Jonen, Chair

Clyde Clauson

Beth Steckelberg ✓

Shorty Ott ✓

Nominations

Terry Smith ✓

Bill Froelich ✓

Pension & Benefits

Jody Schumacher * (2010)

Dave Sundet ✓ (2008)

Laura Kamps ✓ (2009)

Eugene Dunk (2009)

Sally Leffleman ✓ (2008)

Diana Buchholtz ✓ (2009)

Linda Brown ✓ (2010)

Steve Pieroni ✓ (2010)

Jeff Leverich ✓ (2009)

Hank Krokosky ✓ (2008)

Dennis Eisenberg, Chair (2010)

Website

Laura DeVries, Chair ✓

Renee Ison

Tim Smith

Jacinta Jones

Kim Weimer-Noyce ✓

Scholarship

Dave Sundet, Chair ✓

Cynthia Majors

Eugene Dunk

New Member/Training

Jodie Kelter

Kim Rucker

Robbyn Marcinkevich

Editorial Board

Fred Andrist

Bonnie Breivogel

Clyde Clauson

Newsletter

Fred Andrist

Louise Uphoff

Shorty Ott ✓

Ruth Evenson ✓

Financial Review

Bonnie Breivogel, Chair

Eugene Dunk

Clyde Clauson

Louise Uphoff, Liaison to Committee

* - pending Board approval

✓ - Non Board member

There are still openings on the Scholarship Committee for a WEAC/UniServ Associate and WEAC/UniServ Professional, and two people on the New Member/Training committee. If you are interested in serving on either committee please contact Fred Andrist.

"The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning, and does not stop until you get into the office."

Robert Frost