



# Update IAM LL 1943

December 8, 2010



## **Election Information**

Absentee voting continues today from 7:30-12 noon and from 1-4 p.m. at the Union Hall. **The last date to vote is tomorrow, Thursday December 9th, from 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.** The votes will then be counted at the VFW Social Center on 5049 Central Avenue across from the Eastern Bowling Lanes. All candidates are permitted to have one observer to watch the vote counting. We encourage everyone to vote for the candidates of their choosing.

## **Membership Meeting at VFW**

This month's membership meeting will be held at the VFW tomorrow, Thursday December 9th at 4:00 p.m. We will be asking for membership approval for next year's picnic at King's Island. After the meeting we will serve food and drinks, and the election workers will arrive and count the votes in a separate area.

## **Bargaining Surveys**

Yesterday at our monthly Delegates meeting, we distributed bargaining surveys to all the Delegates. These surveys ask for your input on what you most want to see changed in our next round of bargaining. There is a page in the back for additional comments. So for example, if you think it is essential that the job assignment you are working pays a higher grade, write what the job assignment is on the comment page. Strategic Resources will scan all the completed surveys and tabulate the results. We will also get a copy of all the comment pages. This information is vital to your Executive Board to best prepare for contract negotiations. It will also be used for the week of "mock" negotiations at the IAM training center in Maryland in February. These surveys are internal Union business and should not be shared with any member of management. We ask that you return the surveys to your delegate quickly. We need to send the surveys to Strategic Resources no later than Wednesday, December 15th.

## **Tentative Agreement Reached in Mansfield**

Steelworkers Local 169 in Mansfield has reached a tentative agreement with AK Steel on a 3 year extension of their current contract which expires on March 31, 2011. Bargaining began a week and a half ago and the members will vote on the proposal tomorrow. Details about the extension will be released after the members vote. Mansfield makes stainless steel and the contract covers around 270 members. Once we learn whether the contract passed and the details, we will share them with you. If Mansfield's contract is accepted, the next contract to expire will be ours, followed by the Ashland Coke Plant.

## **Labor Presence Forces Council To Table Resolution**

Over 200 area union members packed Middletown City Council Chambers to voice opposition to a resolution urging the State to rewrite the collective bargaining law. Middletown, like most every other city, township, and state is facing a deficit in their budget. Council member Josh Laubach's solution was to ask the state to allow the city to pay its unionized employees, who do not have the right to strike, whatever wage and benefits they saw fit. We led off the public comment portion of the meeting with a reminder of the struggles working people endured for collective bargaining rights; and that removal of those rights would not be taken lightly. Several other comments were made and around 9:00 p.m. City Council voted 6 to 1 to table the resolution. It was great to be a part of this victory and witness the power that working people have when they pull together behind an important issue. Thanks to everyone who showed up, it mattered.

## **SunCoke Update**

The City of Monroe continues to fight the construction of the new coke plant. The plant was capable of producing 56 megawatts of electricity which is one-fourth of the amount we consume at the Middletown Works. Anytime over 50 megawatts is produced, the Power Siting Board must issue a certificate. They did so last year. Monroe appealed the decision to the Ohio Supreme Court who instructed the Power Siting to consider the location of the entire operation. The Ohio EPA already approved the site. Instead of risking the possibility that the Power Siting Board would delay the certificate, SunCoke will produce less than 50 megawatts, making the certificate unnecessary. This means that SunCoke will waste some heat generated by the coke plant, instead of converting it into electricity, therefore running the plant less efficiently. Monroe's fight for the environment, which is their right, is producing strange outcomes.

## *Your Executive Committee*

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