

9346 News

June, 2009

Vol. 9, Issue 3

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President's Report

Sisters and Brothers, the August shutdown for the Plant has been cancelled due to spot sales into China and demand for Elkview's product. As of now, the shut down in Mine Operations remains as scheduled, although there will be a need for loaders and trucks due to the operating of the Plant.

China is becoming a major coking coal importer and as a result the global market might face tightness once demand from the rest of the world increases according to analysts. China's overall coal imports have sky rocketed this year, hitting an all time record of 9.16 million tonnes in April. 2.8 millions tonnes of that was coking coal used in steel making. China's strong coking coal import demands are likely to continue with China becoming a major

importer. Teck plans to increase sales to China, the worlds biggest consumer of steel and is in talks to sell 20% of its coking coal assets to Chinese Companies to help pay down their debt.

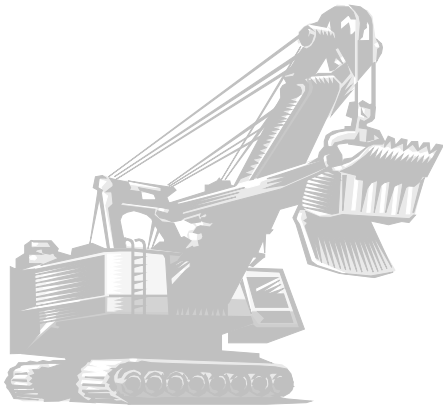
Almost 70% of Teck's operating profit in the first quarter came from our coal.

As I had mentioned in my previous articles, we continue to have issues with Manulife denying benefits to some of our members. We have brought this to the Company's attention several times and as I have stated in the past, it will be an issue at the next set of negotiations.

Last year, one of our members was denied Short Term Disability Benefits and after exhausting the appeal process under Manulife's plan we decided to take them to Small Claims Court. We couldn't

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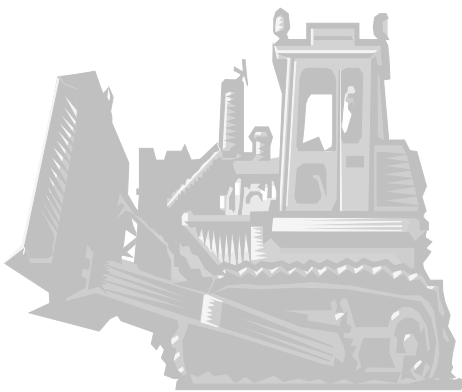


NOTICES BY EMAIL.

Anyone who would like to get newsletters, meeting dates, and notices emailed to you, please forward your e-mail address to:

admin@usw9346.ca

Our current list of e-mail addresses is old and we will be creating a new distribution list.



President's Report (Continued from page 1)

settle our differences at the settlement conference so it was decided to go to trial. At our pre-trial hearing on May 26, 2009 we ended up with a resolve that was to the SATISFACTION of our member. I can't give any details as the settlement was based on me and our member not talking about the case but needless to say we are 100% satisfied with the outcome.

We have some new additions to our Safety Committee as Mike Peters, Scott Liddle, Wayne Shewchuk and Dennis Gandner have stepped forward. A safety rep school level 1 will take place in Elkford on June 23 and 24 and our new reps will be taking part in this.

District 3 of the USW has started a Summer Program for sons and daughters of our members who are actively enrolled in school and who are 16 year or older. This program runs for 3-4 weeks in July and pays \$600 per week. The

students will be placed in Burnaby, Langley and Winnipeg for their term. Applications need to be submitted by **JUNE 19, 2009**. Details are on page 7 of this newsletter.

Line Creek is currently in negotiations with Teck. Talks seem to be going fairly well according to Gord Chaisson, Business Agent for the Operating Engineers.

We should start thinking about our Collective Bargaining Agreement which expires in 2010. Who runs the Union? **YOU DO!** This Union is a democracy at every level. You elect your negotiating committee and the leadership for Local, District and International levels of the Union. Nominations for International positions will take place in September of this year with the election in November.

Your Local will begin the

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process of nominating and electing the Bargaining Committee in the fall of this year. If you want to make a difference, get involved!!

I would like to thank all the Shop Stewards and Safety Reps for all your hard work especially the chairs, Mark Milley, and Troy Cook . THANKS!!

In Solidarity,
Christopher Nand
President



National Day of Mourning Ceremony, hosted by your JOHE&S Co-Chair, Mark Milley. This took place April 28, 2009 in Centennial Square in Sparwood. Thanks to everyone who participated in this important event.

"Mourn for the dead, Fight for the Living!!"

REMINDER!!

Health and Safety School Level I

June 23 and 24, 2009

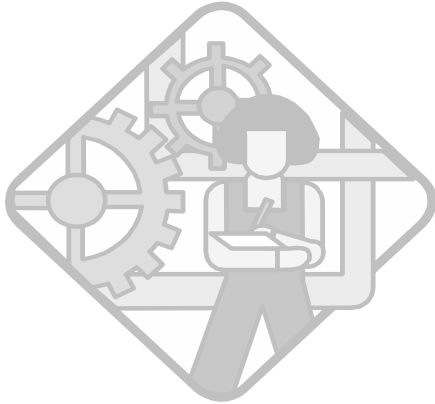
at USW Local 7884 in Elkford!

Starts at 8:00am

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GRIEVANCE REPORT

Troy Cook



- 32/07 - Unjust Termination - Arbitration Postponed
- 19/08 - Unjust Discipline - going to arbitration. Waiting for dates
- 23/08 - Unjust Discipline - going to arbitration. Dates set for August 13 and 14, 2009
- 27/08 - Unjust Termination - Going to arbitration. Waiting for dates.
- 40/08 - Unjust Discipline - withdrawn
- 41/08 - Unjust Discipline - resolved to the satisfaction of the Union.
- 45/08 - Unjust Discipline - resolved to the satisfaction of the Union.
- 47/08 - Not paid overtime after crew transfer - resolved to the satisfaction of the Union.
- 48/08 - Unjust Discipline - waiting for second stage meeting
- 49/08 - Unjust Termination - Arbitrator denied grievance.

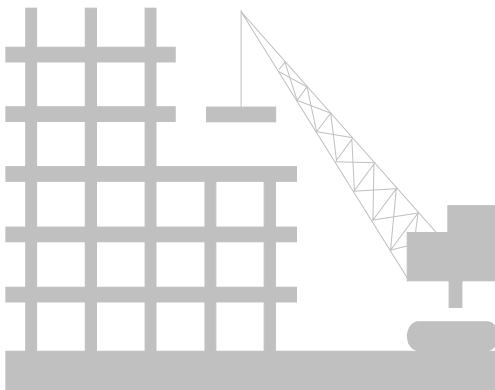
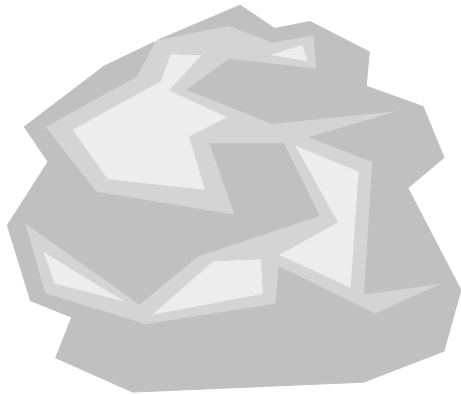
GRIEVANCES FOR 2009...

- 02/09 - Unjust Discipline - resolved to the satisfaction of the Union.
- 04/09 - Unjust Discipline - resolved to the satisfaction of the Union.
- 08/09 - Senior people laid off while junior employees worked - in abeyance until the Shop Steward Meeting on June 24, 2009
- 09/09 - Improper layoff (more than 8 calendar days) - in abeyance until the Shop Steward Meeting on June 24, 2009
- 10/09 - posting permanent position while employee was on temporary leave - in abeyance until the Shop Steward Meeting on June 24, 2009
- 11/09 - Employee sent home and not compensated two hours for coming in to work - resolved to the satisfaction of the Union.

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SHOP STEWARD
MEETING
JUNE 24, 2009
at 4:30pm at the
Union Hall

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13/09 - Machinist doing welders overtime work - in abeyance until the Shop Steward Meeting on June 24, 2009

14/09 - Policy - Technological Change - in abeyance until the Shop Steward Meeting on June 24, 2009

15/09 - Truck shop job postings - in abeyance until the Shop Steward Meeting on June 24, 2009

16/09 - Road Closure - in abeyance until the Shop Steward Meeting on June 24, 2009

17/09 - Seniority - resolved to the satisfaction of the Union.

18/09 - Company failed to notify employee of possible work during shutdown - waiting second stage response

19/09 - Seniority - resolved to the satisfaction of the Union.

20/09 - Unjust Discipline - waiting third stage meeting.

21/09 - Policy - waiting third stage meeting

22/09 - Junior person worked shutdown - withdrawn

23/09 - Policy - withdrawn

24/09 - Unjust Discipline - in abeyance until the Shop Steward Meeting June 24, 2009

25/09 - Overtime - withdrawn

26/09 - Unjust Discipline - waiting for second stage meeting

27/09 - Overtime - waiting for third stage response.

28/09 - Displaced Employee - received first stage response

29/09 - Unjust Discipline - in abeyance

30/09 - Group Grievance - resolved to the satisfaction of the Union.

31/09 - Unjust Discipline - waiting for first stage meeting

32/09 - Policy - waiting for third stage meeting.

SAFETY REP

MEETING

JULY 10, 2009

at 4:30pm at the

Union Hall

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Animal Farm

Peter Rosner

"All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others" (George Orwell - Animal Farm 1945)

This book is based on the Russian Revolution and the rise of Joseph Stalin. It deals with the fine line between socialism and totalitarianism. Its lessons can be applied to all forms of government, corporations and even unions. In the good times we tend to have higher expectations from our employer and as we get into a recession we have a harder time making sacrifices. This is when people become disgruntled and question their leadership. *"Government big enough to supply everything you need is big enough to take away everything you have. The course of history shows as government grows, liberty decreases."* (Thomas Jefferson).

When people question their leadership they look for change but do not always foresee what they have got themselves into. Remember, *"Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely."* (Lord Acton - English Historian)

I find it very comparable to what is occurring here over the last eight months. The hourly employees are being challenged to honour

the Collective Agreement and Company Policies. If they do not comply they are written up and their employment is put in jeopardy. They have made sacrifices with the shutdowns and work sharing. Don't get me wrong, I fully believe we are doing the right things to help our our co-workers and as a union representative I expect the Company to honour the contract just as we should. I believe we should all contribute because we have challenging times ahead. It just appears to me that the Company has difficulty in living up to their part in this.

"People may doubt what you say but they will believe what you do." (Lewis Cass)

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a mans character give him power." (Abraham Lincoln)

The shut downs are a glaring example of twisting contrast language to achieve what they want our only resolve is the grievance procedure. Meanwhile, we have staff that are not making the same sacrifice as the rest of us. They are either working (and I use that term loosely) or getting extra paid vacation to cover these shutdowns. They make it very hard to convince the membership that they are doing the right thing when they see this happening. The other day while leaving the mine site on the bus I had to endure the

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conversation of two bean counters who had spent their day looking over how productive the previous shift had been. While you were out there producing and fighting the clock to stay awake on night shift they showed up the next morning poured themselves a hot coffee and started to dissect your work performance. That is when this came to mind.

I think myself that we have more machinery of government than is necessary, *"too many parasites living on the labour of the industrious."* (Thomas Jefferson) Now I know some of our members have a far different opinion than me about the way this is being handled and the Unions role in this and it brings to mind the following:

"He has the right to criticize, who has the heart to help." (Abraham Lincoln)

"Victory has a thousand fathers, but defeat is an orphan." (John F. Kennedy)

"If I were a worker in a factory, the first thing I would do would be to join a union." (Franklin D. Roosevelt)

"Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours, and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor." (John F. Kennedy)

In Solidarity,
Peter Rosner

USW Summer Student Program

Sarah Wingfield

PAID Internships are open to young adults, 16 years of age or older who are children of members of the United Steelworkers and are actively enrolled in school.

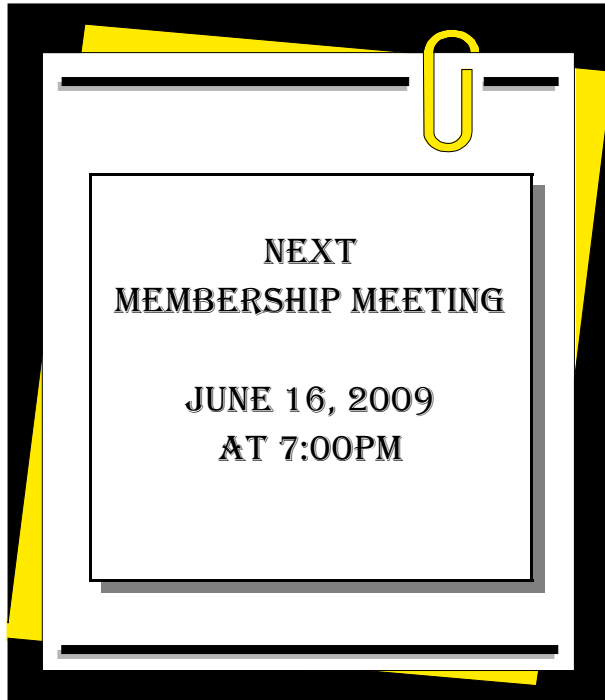
Program will run for 3-4 weeks and begin in July. Participants will receive a stipend of \$600/week. The internships will be in Winnipeg, Langley and Burnaby. It is not necessary to live in a program area to apply as every effort will be made to billet participants who are working outside their home area. Transportation to and from the assigned sites will be covered by the program, along with housing and other local transportation costs.

Participants will be assigned to various projects where they will work with USW members and staff to help workers fight for workplace or community justice. Activities may include visiting workers in their homes, leafleting job sites, organizing demonstrations and other forms of direct actions. Depending on what types of campaigns are underway, participants, may help organize coalitions between labour and community groups, work on public educational efforts, or build pressure on uncooperative employers.

Application forms are available at the Union Hall.

APPLICATION DEADLINE - JUNE 19, 2009

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OFFICE HOURS
9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Union Hall Contact Information

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Sparwood, BC V0B 2G0

Local Union Executive Committee Members

Christopher Nand - President
Dave Sheets - Vice President
Horst Gandner - Recording Secretary
Samuel Samy - Financial Secretary
Russell Primrose - Treasurer
Peter Zazzara - Trustee
Heather Kelloway - Trustee

Peter Rosner - Trustee
Ewan Gordon - Inside Guard
Russell Ullman - Outside Guard
Peter Chechotko - Guide
Mark Milley - OHE&S Committee Co-Chair
Troy Cook - Grievance Committee Chairperson/
WCB Committee Chair