

Reporter

The President's Report: Briggs Unit ratifies contract

On October 21, 2010, members at Briggs voted 211 to 77 to accept the successor contract proposal from Briggs & Stratton Corporation. The negotiation process had begun on June 30, 2010. This contract passed with no recommendation from the Bargaining Committee. The contract will be in effect through July 31, 2013. We were able to keep the 10 years of fully paid Insurance for members with 1979 seniority or greater until January 1, 2012. If you retire on or after January 1, 2012, you will have 5 years of Medical Insurance only.

- Their will be two (2) programs of Medical Benefits available, a Standard PPO plan and a High Deductible PPO plan. The EPO plan will be eliminated on December 31, 2010. The Standard PPO plan pays 80% in net work and the High Deductible PPO plan pays 95% in net work after you pay your Annual deductibles.
- There will be a 2 % wage increase on August 1st, each year of the 3-year contract.
- This year's wage increase is retroactive to August 1, 2010.
- The life and accidental death insurance benefit will increase to \$ 30,000 on January 1, 2011, and increase to \$33,000 on January 1, 2012.
- The weekly disability rate was increase to \$365.00 per week upon ratification.
- You still have the \$25,000 lump sum pension payment for those that are eligible.
- You have the lump sum supplemental benefit of \$1,000 until January 1, 2013.
- The members received a \$500.00 ratification bonus.

Union Dues

In regards to the union dues deduction process changes. When PACE International Union Merged with the United Steel Workers International Union in 2005 part of the agreement was the former PACE members would not pay union dues under the USW dues process until January 1, 2011. That's why these changes will be taking place in January.

A special meeting was held on November 14, 2010, to explain the union dues deduction process.

Executive Board / Election

At the October 17, 2010, Membership Meeting, elections were held; Vinith Inthisane was elected Briggs Trustee, Yolanda Turner was elected Trustee At Large, and Gloria Smith was elected for the Guide position.

- Due to the resignation of Tameka Smith, the Recording Secretary position is open. There will be an election to fill this position at the January 16, 2011, membership meeting.

Open Enrollment at Briggs

Open enrollment at Briggs was November 16, 2010 through November 30, 2010. A Confirmation Statement will be sent to you. Review your statement and make sure it reflects the benefit elections and changes you made.

At Strattec

At the October 17, 2010, Membership Meeting, Diane Neely was elected Strattec Grievance Representative. She will finish out the term of Milton Dawson who resigned in June. Strattec paid out a 12.16% EVA Bonus in August. The Company stated they had a good year and the first half of this year looks good. They have hired new employees to help meet the business demand.

Open Enrollment at Strattec

The open enrollment period at Strattec is November 15th through December 15, 2010. If you are not making any changes, you don't have to do anything. However if you have a Flexible Spending Account you need to sign up again. Under Health Care Reform, your dependents can remain on your Insurance until the age of 26.

Three/Discharged

Three (3) members were discharged and after meeting with the Company during 3rd stage grievance meetings two (2) were reinstated, one at Briggs and one at Strattec. We currently have a 3rd stage grievance meeting scheduled with Briggs for December 15, 2010.

In Solidarity,
Jesse Edwards
President

From Financial Secretary Treasurer, Ralph Schwieger

The following is from the IRS.gov website, Publication 17. You can deduct dues and initiation fees you pay for union membership. Here are the totals for 12 months of dues for 2010.

Briggs&Stratton-\$44.62 per month. 12 months x \$44.62 = \$535.44

Strattec-\$44.72 per month. 12 months x \$44.72 = 536.64

Membership Information

600 Members in Good Standing. 382 at Briggs & Stratton and 214 at Strattec.

December 2010 Dues Payments 367 @ Briggs & Stratton and 209 @ Strattec

The difference reflects members off work for lay-off, illness or other reasons.

New Strattec Grievance Representative

Thank you, thank you, thank you and good day to all of my Co-workers and Union Team Members. To those of you who may not know me, I am Diane Neely. I have been employed by Strattec Security Corporation for 15 years and have worked in several different departments. Currently, I am working 2nd shift in the Die Cast area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported and elected me as your new Grievance Representative. I continue to ask you for your support while I am transitioning, learning my new responsibilities and what is required from me as your Grievance Representative. I plan to do my very best to address your needs and / or concerns and represent each and every one of you to the best of my ability.

I am in my office Monday-Friday, usually around 12:30pm, available to assist you. Once again, thank you for your support and for electing me as your Grievance Representative.

In Solidarity,
Diane Neely
Strattec Grievance Representative

Strattec Report

The Union was successful in getting the Union Brother his job back, after he was discharged for attendance. The Union proved that the two different medical appointments were for the same illness and that an error was made.

Attec Department

The Company has acquired a new cell to be installed in the area which will bring about new positions that will be created to operate this cell. The position will be posted and listed as a labor grade six. The changes in this department will begin to take place some time in the very near future.

Plant Shutdown

The company plans to shut down from December 24th until January 3rd, 2011. A few departments will be working December 28th and 29th. Production on those days will be filled with a skeleton crew. This is just another regular workday with no time and a half or double time being paid.

Production is going very well here at Strattec. Lets all continue to do a very good job!

In Solidarity,
Diane Neely
Strattec Grievance Representative

Briggs Report

- There is one discharged Member and 3rd Stage is December 15th.
- The Temps should be gone in the next couple of weeks. Many will be hired by Briggs&Stratton.

- Briggs is still in the hiring mold.
- Most contractors should be gone by the end of December. That is the goal of the Company.
- Briggs is still working on 5-s.
- All employees got their \$500.00 Bonus and back pay. There was a group of people that did not get their raises and will get their back pay this week or next.
- The Service Department had a Thanksgiving lunch and all the Employees got a gift. I would like to thank Bill Harlow for that.
- Christmas shut down starts December 24th and we will return January 3rd, 2011.
- I would like to thank all of the Bargaining Committee Members and the 3 International Representatives and specially Jesse Edwards for his leadership during bargaining with Briggs&Stratton on the new contract. It was a long and stressful negotiation process and we all tried our hardest to get the best contract we could. Thanks to all that were involved!
- I hope the Leaders and Membership has a safe and happy Holy Days. Tell someone you love, I Love You. It is something we take for granted.

In Solidarity,
 Dean Wegner
 Briggs&Stratton Grievance Representative

Take Notes.....

- Next Membership Meeting is January 16th, 2011. The Meeting will be held at Yatchek Hall, 633 S. Hawley Road at 9:30am.
- Nomination and election will take place at the above mentioned meeting for the position of Recording Secretary.