

Bargaining Solidarity Update #13

April 17, 2012

Today might be called the “lull before the storm” and the parties addressed a few outstanding issues. The Union and the Company reached **Tentative Agreement (TA’d)** on **U-35**, inclement weather, where we will be allowed to use our sick leave to cover the time we are late for work in the event of weather emergencies. The Union presented improvements to the On Call in Line and Pole, **U-26**. There was no response from the Employer. The Union and the Company went back and forth on the sick leave package. In the end, sick leave proposals **U-17, U-18, U-20** and **U-21** were dropped and the parties agreed to new language in **U-19** for the use of up to five days of sick leave for non-FMLA family illness (with a sunset) and **U-22** which requires the Employer to keep people informed of their attendance issues and they must also inform us, Company-wide, as to the rules and requirements relative to the need for doctor’s excuses. **It is hoped that both of these changes go a long way to address some of our concerns on this sick leave issue.**

The Union dropped proposed changes to the Supplemental Workers Compensation, **U-40** and introduced language requiring the Employer to be “neutral” in the event other employees at MGE want to join the Union, **U-36**. The Employer has no interest in putting this language into the contract and said they “will follow the law”.

We will know more clearly what kind of MGE we are dealing with next week. Are they intent on union busting? Do they intend to take a wholly unreasonable approach to the health care issue? We have to be prepared for any eventuality. **Solidarity amongst all of us and with our community we serve is the key to getting a decent contract.**

Please stop by the **Solidarity Party/Rally** at the Labor Temple this Thursday after work! Beer, soda, chips, and those famous pulled pork sandwiches will be provided.

In Solidarity,

IBEW 2304 Bargaining Committee