

INSIGHT 2020

Volume 3, Issue 1

Local 2020 Newsletter

June 2002

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



There has been a lot of activity within Local 2020 since our last newsletter. Marlene Routledge one of our stewards from Omega Direct Response along with Anne Rinneard from Local 6500 headed up the Save Medicare campaign in the Sudbury area. During the campaign they spent many hours on the phone and knocking on more than 10,000 doors passing the message on and getting support to save our health care so that we all can keep the system that provides health care for everyone and not a system that provides just for the ones that can afford it.

On June 7th the annual relay for life took place at Laurentian University. A team made up by Bob Lesk, Linda Boyd, Mike & Laura Leger, Lavern & Sandy Guennette, Andre & Gisele Cote Sabrina Laflemme and her mother represented local 2020. The team raised more than \$2000.00 for cancer. Sandy Guennette raised more than \$1000.00 on her own. That evening it rained all night but that did not dampen the spirits of the participants, they walked the full duration of the event from 7:00PM to 7:00AM.

The local 2020 women of steel committee has been very busy participating in many different activities within the union and the community. There is a Womens Choir that has performed at many events and they are

always looking for new members.

On behalf of the executive and the members of local 2020 I would like to say thank you to everyone that has participated in the mentioned events and would also like to encourage others to get involved. If you are interested in participating in any future events please contact me at the Steelworkers hall.

Brian Hajdukiewicz
President Local 2020

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TIMES ARE CHANGING



The recent announcement that Noranda has been taking steps towards amalgamating the Noranda and Falconbridge head office has created much unrest in our membership. It makes me wonder who has the top floor of the new amalgamated office in Toronto. The answer is simple, Noranda. Changes are sure to come. Falconbridge has a new President and head of Human Resources, both of which are Noranda people. To put this into perspective, we will now be dealing with Noranda during collective bargaining. Fortunately for us, many Noranda operations are unionized and well represented by Steelworkers. This will certainly

help our position and relationship with this corporate giant. I ask all OCT members to please work safely during these times of change and to keep your mind on the job. As things begin to unfold, our membership is sure to see the impact of the recent events, so don't pay much attention to the many rumors floating around.

A quick update on the Third Party Determination shows an increase in the number of grievances being forwarded. Since April 2001, there have been six cases heard by the Grievance Commissioner. Three more cases were presented on May 23, 2002. Eight more grievances have been advanced to Third Party Determination and meetings are forthcoming with Management to decide if an Arbitrator or a Grievance Commissioner will hear them. A neutral third party will decide these cases.

April 30, 2002, an arbitration hearing took place for the grievance initiated from the FTC pertaining to shift schedules. I will update you when the results are known. A breakdown by business Unit shows that over 60% of the grievances forwarded to Third Party Determination are from the Smelter. Need I say more? It is unfortunate we have to go in this direction, but our collective agreement must be enforced and adhered to. I am proud to say that the backlog of grievances is no more. All outstanding grievances are now advanced or withdrawn.

Myles Sullivan
Local 2020 Vice President
Unit Chair - Falconbridge

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - article by Dan O'Reilly

I would like to welcome our newest unit to the Local 2020 family. "Dynatech" a mining contract firm will be working in five closed INCO mines. Presently, there is only one member, but there is a potential for about 150 in the next year or so. The union is presently negotiating a collective agreement and hopes to have it completed by the end of July.

INCO Pharmacies

The union has filed a direct difference grievance over the issue of INCO's change to how our members access their prescription drugs. Basically, they are saying you have to go to pharmacies who have a \$6.50 dispensing fee. If you go to a pharmacy that is charging above \$6.50, you will have to pay for your prescription up front then wait for Liberty Health to send a reimbursement cheque. Although we agree with the need to contain costs (INCO paid 29 million in drug costs last year), we think that encouraging members through an education program would be more effective. Many people, especially our pensioners have a relationship with their pharmacist and this is important for their health care. Having said that, I encourage people to go to the pharmacies with the lower dispensing fees if convenient.

Voisey's Bay

INCO's recent announcement that they are going to build a processing plant in Newfoundland for Voisey's Bay ore is not good news for Sudbury. Our preference would have been to process that ore in Sudbury at

existing facilities and spend that money developing new mines here. On the positive side, the Steelworkers have a neutrality agreement with INCO to organize the workers in Voisey's Bay. Hopefully we will succeed in that endeavor and push for common contract expiry dates.

In closing, I would like to wish all members a safe and happy summer!

Sudbury District Labour Council

Article by Bob Lesk

Once again the Sudbury District Labour Council (SDLC) has had a busy agenda. The following are a "few" highlights of the last six months.

On March 26 SDLC supported the Ontario Energy Coalition at the Steel Hall. The open forum covered many aspects of hydro privatization. The meeting can be summed up in the following three points:

- In the "Long Term" your hydro rates will go up under privatization.
- Stay with your local utility instead of outside companies.
- We have approximately 12 months to "stop" the rush sale of hydro.

On April 28, 2002 ~ The Day of Mourning, was held at the Tom Davies Square. Leo Gerard, Shelly Martel, and Doug Graig gave thoughtful speeches on this important day.

In May, John Filo and Dave Starbuck made presentations to the Romanow Commission.

Major donations were made to the following:

- \$1000 to OPSEU Hardship Committee
- \$1500 to Sudbury Medicare Coalition Campaign

Laurentian University has reaffirmed their commitment to the "Labour Studies" program by approving funding for the course over the next three years.

A student placement was approved for the office through the Human Resources Development Committee (HRDC).

The council supported the health coalition presentation at the Sudbury Council Chambers April 2002. A motion was supporting the coalition.

The next co-chairs for the United Way for 2002 will be Jim Gosselin (Local 6500 SDLC) and Scott MacDonald (INCO).

Hazel Bottrell and Sandy Bass were our representatives at the Canadian Labour Congress convention in June. A report will follow.

SDLC meetings are held the last Thursday of each month at 2:00 P.M. in the OPSEU offices in Newgate Square. See you there!

Women of Steel

by Linda Boyd

As usual, the Women of Steel have been very busy! We organized, participated, and were involved in many events during the last couple of months.

Singing Group

On April 20th the Women of Steel Singers visited the Alzheimer Society's Recreation Centre to lead a sing-a-long for their Day Programme clients. It was a very pleasant afternoon enjoyed by all.

On April 28th, we participated in the Day of Mourning service at Tom Davies Square. Feedback was positive and encouraging.

We are always looking for more voices for the singing group. If you are interested in singing with the Women of Steel please contact us.

Projects

Local 2020 Women of Steel participated in NEOAC “Women Helping Women”, “Spring Thing”, The Craft and Product Show successfully raised funds for several Women’s charities.

In May, donations of clothing, toiletries, and money were collected for Women’s Shelters. The donations were distributed to Geneva House in Sudbury, Transition House in North Bay, and Esprit House in Parry Sound.

General Meeting

Members who attended the meeting on June 5, 2002, were enthusiastic participants and had a lot of good ideas and suggestions. At the meeting, a membership survey was distributed. If you have not received the survey in your work place, please contact one of the Committee members. For those who did receive the survey, please return the completed forms to any member of the steering committee before the end of July.

Future Plans

It was evident from the general meeting that there was not enough communication. It was decided that a newsletter will be distributed; possibly on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

Due to the number of health and safety issues raised, it was decided that we would plan one of these general meetings specifically dealing with Women’s health and safety concerns. This will tentatively be held in the fall – we’ll keep you posted.

If you have any questions or comments about Women of Steel, please feel free to contact any of the Steering Committee Members:

Linda Boyd	Chairperson
Linda Lafleur	Recording Secretary
Sandy Cameron	Union Gas Sudbury
Carol Fantin	Union Energy Sudbury
Lise Sauve-Gingras	Falconbridge
Terri Nugent	SuperVent Parry Sound
Robby Steed	Crisis Centre North Bay

SMOKE DETECTOR SAFETY

Article by Sherri Kultalahti

Smoke Detectors are a person's best protection in a home fire. Smoke detectors emit an ear-piercing alarm which provides all family members with the precious extra minutes needed to escape.

While most home fires occur while people are sleeping, it is imperative that you ensure that your smoke detector is in good working order. The smell of smoke often does not waken someone who is sound asleep. This insensitivity is the reason that smoke inhalation rather than the actual fire is most often the cause of death.

Considerations When Installing Your Smoke Detectors:

- Install a smoke detector on each floor of your home, including the basement. Contact your local fire department for

- proper placement.
- Place a smoke detector outside every bedroom area (If a person sleeps with the door closed it is also a good idea to place a smoke detector inside the bedroom).
- DO NOT place in areas where cooking & showering take place, as it will trigger needless false alarms.
- Be sure to buy only “CSA approved” units.

Smoke Detector Maintenance:

- Batteries weaken with age and must be tested and replaced generally every 9 to 12 months. NEVER disable a detector by “borrowing” it’s battery for another use!
- Test your smoke detector at least once a month. All smoke detectors become less effective with age.
- Clean your smoke detector regularly following manufacturers instructions.

Almost every day, a smoke detector saves somebody's life in Canada. Of all the low-cost fire alarm devices you can purchase, fire officials consider smoke detectors the most effective!

NOTE: Always have spare batteries for your smoke detector. Your smoke detector will sound when the batteries are low. If you are as “lucky” as I was, it will happen in the middle of the night. Instead of just disabling it immediately replace the battery with your spare.

With maintained smoke detectors, your family will always be safe. 25% of all

IS YOURS???

smoke detectors are inoperable.

Office Technical & Professional Update

Article by Gary Quig -Unit Chair Inco O.T.P.

In the last year, we have had only seven grievances proceed past the informal stage and none have needed advancement to arbitration, since they were all resolved in favor of the grievor.

Our last grievance going to second stage was filed in September. It was on the issue of accommodation. While it was denied, we have since drafted an interim letter of agreement that will address all the concerns of the grievor and establish a procedure to handle accommodation issues in the future.

Since November, the settlement committee which normally meets monthly to hear as many as a half a dozen grievances at second stage, has only met once because everything is being resolved before they get that far.

Enthusiasm for the Union is improving as well.

We are training stewards, four of whom have less than two years of service.

In February, two new safety activists attended school for basic certification training. We had three members attend Women of Steel course in March and three more attended a leadership seminar in Pittsburgh in June.

In January something new was tried at our “You and your Union” seminar that worked out very well. In addition to the

nine 6600 members in attendance, we invited two HR reps to take the course. We even got the Company to pay for the lost time! A definite first as our relationship continues to improve.

WSIB Report

Article by Ron St Germain

I had the privilege to attend the Westray Mines tenth year anniversary commemorating 26 miners that died as a result of an explosion in the mine. There were of early warnings that disaster was about to happen. The Steelworkers were in the middle of an organizing drive at the time, as miners feared they were being forced to work in unsafe conditions.

Family members were concerned that this day would be forgotten but that concern was alleviated on May 9, 2002 when the day started to unfold. Twenty-three delegates from the United Steelworkers, including Nancy Hutchinson from our local office and Michael Wright from the international office showed support at a candle light vigil at 5:18 A.M. exactly ten years after the horrendous devastation.



Canada A.M. amongst other media, interviewed families on how they were coping ten years later.

After the early morning ceremony, we held our Health & Safety and WSIB committee meeting. We discussed the Steelworker's drive on Parliament Hill to get support from all politicians to get the Westray Bill passed. This would hold corporate owners and heads responsible for the Westray happenings or held responsible for their negligence even though **NO MORE WESTRAYS** they

were aware of what was to occur on that disturbing day.

After the meeting, we reconvened at the monument sites for another ceremony. I was overwhelmed but truly proud to be in attendance as a Steelworker. The monument area was filled with family, friends, and people paying their respects. Wayne Frasier and the Atlantic Provinces Labour Area councils were there to attend the day's events.

Emotions were heavy but something else was in the air; a true feeling of support and solidarity for these miners and their families, showing them they are not and will not be forgotten. **N O**

MORE WESTRAY'S!

The next day we visited the plant of Trenton Works where rail cars for trains are fabricated. We continued our Health & Safety and WSIB committee meetings on May 11, 2002 in Halifax. Most of the people that spoke of the event were thankful of the support that was given to the families of the brothers that died on that day. Please support the Westray Bill and de-

Keeping in Touch

In order to send the Local 2020 Newsletter, Bulletins, memos etc., we are requesting that you send in the following information:

- Your Email address
- Mailing address with Postal Code.
- Phone number.
- Work company and location.

You can Email this information to:

local 2020uswa@hotmail.com

Or

By Fax to (705) 675-1039

The Local's name and logo will appear in the 2002-03 OHL Sudbury Wolves' program. Over 6,000 copies are distributed throughout the season at home games. The package purchased includes hockey game tickets that will be raffled off at the regularly scheduled union meetings to the members who are in attendance.

SCHEDULED UNION MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS FOR 2002

August 20	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Steelworkers Hall, Sudbury
August 21	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.	Steelworkers Hall, Sudbury
August 21	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Sibbett Centre, North Bay
August 22	Thursday	5:00 p.m.	Library, Parry Sound
October 15	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Steelworkers Hall, Sudbury
October 16	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.	Steelworkers Hall, Sudbury
October 16	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Sibbett Centre, North Bay
October 17	Thursday	5:00 p.m.	Library, Parry Sound
December 10	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Steelworkers Hall, Sudbury
December 11	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.	Steelworkers Hall, Sudbury
December 11	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Sibbett Centre, North Bay
December 12	Thursday	5:00 p.m.	Library, Parry Sound

ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The third Local 2020 Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on August 24.



Special thanks to co-convenors Bob Gagnon, Gerry Dionne and Gary Quig for their efforts in organizing this Fun For Charity Event.

Proceeds will be donated to the Sudbury Palliative Care Association.

The Sudbury Palliative Care Association which was established in 1986 provides physical, emotional and spiritual support to more than 300 families of terminally-ill individuals each year.

This is all the info: Four Person Best Ball .. \$50 each or \$200 team of four Aug.24th/02..Shotgun Start @ 7:30am..Pine Grove Golf Course (Hwy 69 South) Register with **Kim** at the Hall @675-2461 *Entry must be paid to be confirmed.* Please pay by cheque payable to "USWA Local 2020". Space limited



INSIGHT

Official publication of the
United Steelworkers of
America, Local 2020

92 Frood Road
Sudbury, Ontario
P3C 4Z4

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necessarily reflect the views of the
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NEWS AND VIEWS

INSIGHT: invites **YOU** to share pictures, articles, amusing or human-interest stories with our membership. Your support and participation will help us to make this newsletter a success. Send in your submissions anytime (they will be put on file and used in future issues).

INSIGHT: is published quarterly. Committee Chairs and regular contributors will be notified as to article submission deadlines.

Submissions should be made in *.doc (MS-Word) format and sent via e-mail to local2020uswa@hotmail.com or on diskette to the attention of Bob Leduc at the Steel Hall.

Yours in Solidarity,

Some things to remember this summer!

- You require a boating license to operate your small boat.
- You do not require a license to operate your big boat.
- Don't forget the new mandatory safety equipment for your canoe.
- You require a fishing license to catch fish, make sure you purchase the right one, Conservation license vs Full Limit license.
- Look into the "Slot Size" of fish for the area you will be fishing in. (No area is the same)
- Read the fishing regulations before you fish, everything has changed.
- Keep the little fish you have to throw the nice ones back, gently!
- Respect the "No Fishing" signs.
- Stay clear of the Scuba Divers Flag, it is not a buoy, someone is attached to it!
- Know your game fish, you can't use them for bait.



Have Fun Summer

The Editor