AERO LODGE 834

SCOREBOARD

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE PLAINDEALER | KEEPING SCORE FOR 834 | SEE PAGES 1 & 2 | OCTOBER 2010

Let's Hear it From the Boy!

There's still time to start classes that begin in October

Local Lodge 834 President Joins the Action

By Denise Harris—Editor

Up until now, Local Lodge 834 President Ralph Stout has been the strong, silent type who has led us through two successful strikes. Last month, however, was very tough for the Labor movement and spotlighted in the news several lodges in IAM District 70 targeted for destruction by Wichita corporate leaders. Never one to turn the other cheek, I have been very vocal about my distain for corporate executives mostly because their power grows daily and they increase in number. Our local 834 President has been just as concerned as I, but in a much more professional manner.

Brother Stout will be providing me with monthly messages giving our members more information, inspiration and direction.

Local Lodge 834 President, Ralph Stout speaks out:

We are all going through many challenges at this time with our economy and the local contracts that have been ratified here in Wichita. On that note I would like to say I am so proud of our local and our members who are standing strong and hanging in there through these trying times.

We are staying high in our percentage rate at 85% union members at our site. It is so good to have solidarity and strength in numbers. We had two new members sign up and we will be voting them in at the next monthly meeting. Great job team and keep up the good work encouraging our non members how important it is to be a union member in today's environment.

Thanks to our union we have a good pension, good health insurance and good jobs!

I would like to also address at this time a rumor I am hearing out on the floor. There is word out there that our Brothers and Sisters at Boeing Seattle District 751 will not support us in 2012. This is untrue and in fact with our percentage this high in a "right to work for less" state they know we are true unionists who want to be in the union. This is not because we **have** to be in the union. I would also like to say that with the membership numbers this high District 751 supports us 100%. I know morale is low at this time but we must keep focused on the job ahead of us. With faith we can all weather this storm.

In closing I would like to say be safe this Halloween month and enjoy your family!

In Solidarity,
President Ralph Stout
Local Lodge 834

(Editor's note (AGAIN): Please let me add one more statement about the District 751 rumor. Untying LL834 from the current contract structure would most certainly be a strike issue and in order for District 751 to release us, it would have to be the ONLY strike issue in an otherwise perfect contract. Now, do you see that happening? And, we believe District 751 respects us enough to keep us with them, even though the Boeing Company doesn't seem to have that same level of respect for us.)

OK, I just gotta say this:

Denise Harris

I really have a problem with the CEO of Cessna having a phony-bologna degree of some sort. WHAT?? I've got be kidding!

Let me start out by saying this… sometimes I think we get a little intimidated by all these CEOs and we tend to believe they are as interested in our companies as we are. What we DO know and what we NEED to know can be two entirely different stories. Most of us in manufacturing in general and specifically aircraft manufacturing hold on to a belief that all of our top executives have also worked for the company for several decades just as we have. In reality, a quick web search of top executives of almost all manufacturing companies in the United States reveals most of them have been associated with their current companies for less that five years.

We also believe these executives must have superiour education since the companies have in the past used lack of education to block hourly workers from advancing in their positions. Well, here's a little story we may have forgotten.

Back on 2004, CBS did a ***60 Minutes*** investigation on "diploma mills" that were being used allowing people to refer to themselves as college educated. By paying a place called Hamilton University, people could claim to have several different degrees from Bachelor and up. One of the people uncovered in this report was good, old Jack (high school grad?) Pelton, CEO of Cessna! He had purchased both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Hamilton University. This means he has no academic training above high school yet he was Cessna's Senior Vice President of Engineering before he was CEO! (Maybe he was REALLY good with Legos.) AND, to rectify this, has he actually gone to school and earned a real degree? No, they simply don't give his education information in his official biography.

There's one thing I have learned other than the fact that corporate executives are scum and somewhat crazy, we need to dig a little deeper into the backgrounds of these guys and make the really bad stuff public information. As I was checking more into **"high school grad? Jack's** background I saw a lot of strange stuff on several of Cessna's leadership team. And, don't forget, our own 14-19-million-dollar man, Jim McNerney makes 606 times the average Boeing worker's pay. No recession for Jim, only good times ahead.

Let's talk more about stuff like this, let me know what YOU think.

Letters to the Editor

I would like to thank the membership of Local Lodge 834 for allowing me to attend the Leadership One class at I.A.M.'s Winpisinger Education and Technology Center at Placid Harbor in Maryland. It was a singular experience for me to be around other union brother and sisters who feel like I do, that we need to keep a diligent and faithful watch not only on our employers, but upon ourselves as well.

My time there was filled with many opportunities for learning:
Learning about the beginnings of not just our great union, but about the whole labor movement itself, going back to before we were even a country.
Learning how to read and understand our constitution and bylaws.
Learning how to be not only the best Shop Steward, but the best union member possible.
Most importantly, how we must keep an ever watchful upon those we elect to represent our needs and wishes in our National and State capitals. Without their having worked, and continuing to work, for our benefit, our union would not exist.

In return for their trust in sending me for this education, I pledge to do everything in my power to make sure we as a union continue to stay the course and remain strong. I will fight for every right we deserve to make our jobs safe, rewarding, and insure that these jobs will still be here for our children and grandchildren.

We work for a company that makes great products for our customers, our government, as well as other people and governments around the globe. These products are built by the sweat of our brows, and we build them right. We have every right to be proud of the work we do, but we must remain alert for the times the company may try and take advantage of us, their most precious resource. That means strong and informed leadership. I will pass on all that I've learned to as many as I can through various venues, to spread the knowledge to as many as would accept it, so that others like me will take up the mantle of being the most effective union member possible.

Again, thanks for the opportunity.
Your Brother in Solidarity,
Bob Feldt

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Keep in touch with your representatives/stewards
Check the LL834 and District Lodge 70 web sites often
Attend 834 monthly meetings
Second Saturday of every month at:

District Lodge 70
3830 S. Meridian
Wichita, KS
E-Board Meeting 8:45 AM
Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM

See Ya There!